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240 FBS & FCS TEAM PREVIEWS

Sporting News

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL '09

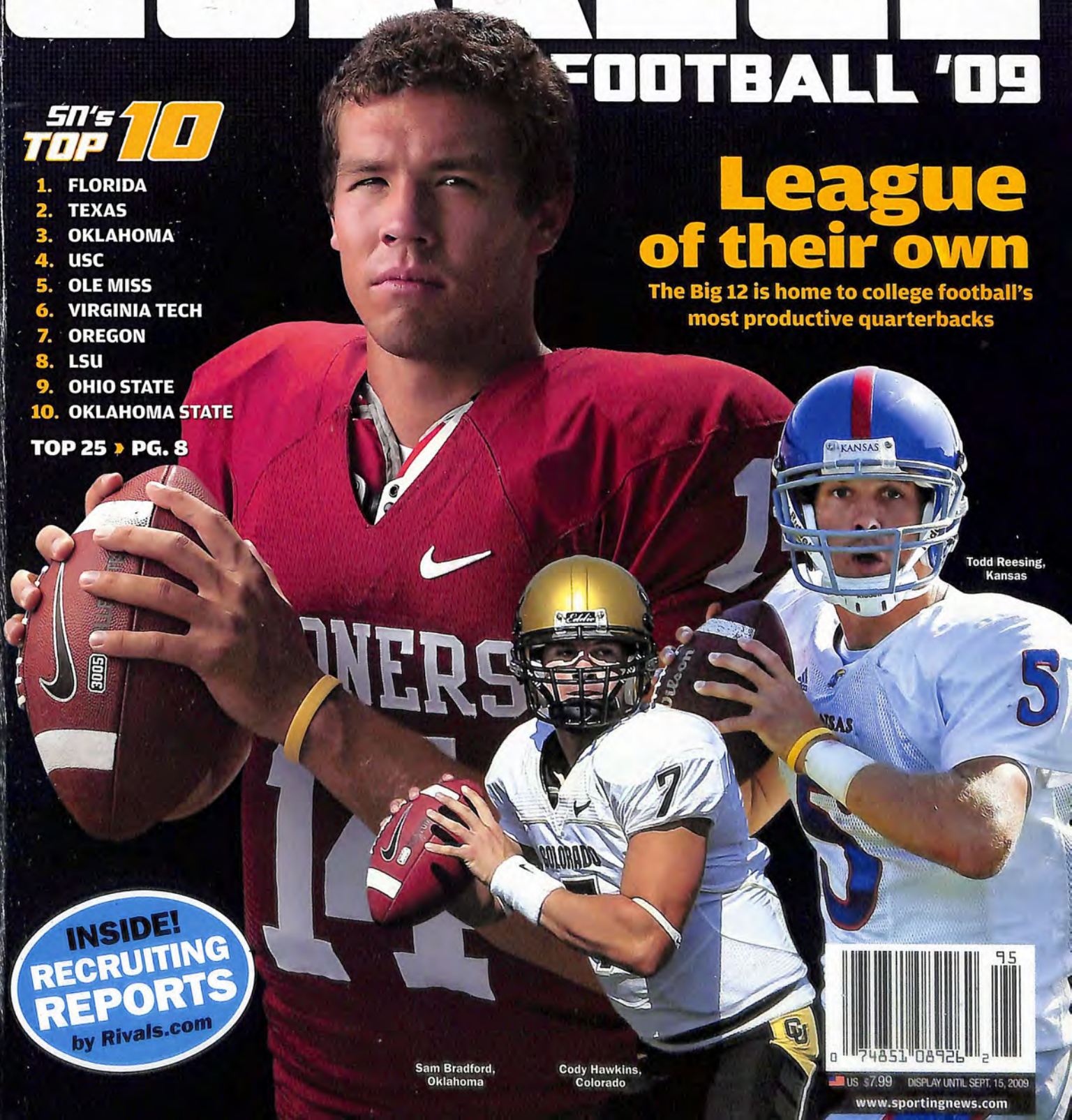
SN's TOP 10

1. FLORIDA
2. TEXAS
3. OKLAHOMA
4. USC
5. OLE MISS
6. VIRGINIA TECH
7. OREGON
8. LSU
9. OHIO STATE
10. OKLAHOMA STATE

TOP 25 › PG. 8

League of their own

The Big 12 is home to college football's most productive quarterbacks



Sam Bradford, Oklahoma

Cody Hawkins, Colorado

Todd Reesing, Kansas

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SPORTING NEWS COLLEGE FOOTBALL 2009

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Mess with the Bulls and get the horns

College football's best-coached team isn't located in Florida, California or Texas.

Almost anyone can win with Tim Tebow, or draw recruits to sunny Los Angeles or point to a case full of national championship trophies.

Where, then, is the best-coached college team in the nation? In Buffalo.

Just a few years ago, the Bulls were the epitome of college football's "have-nots." Now, they are a legitimate Mid-American Conference power and bowl contender under coach Turner Gill.

But the road to the top has been full of potholes. When Gill accepted the job in December 2005 (he had no other head-coaching offers), the Bulls had only won five games in their previous four seasons.

During the 2006 campaign, they limped to a 2-10 mark, as they were repeatedly used as a practice dummies and an almost-certain win.

It was in stark contrast to Gill's playing days at Nebraska. The starting quarterback for Tom Osborne's Cornhuskers in the early 1980s, Gill went 28-2 as a three-year starter and was a Heisman finalist his senior year.

Lucky for the Bulls, Gill wasn't accustomed to losing.

Buffalo showed signs of life in 2007 as it stumbled through its early nonconference opponents. But when conference play began, the Bulls fought their way to a 5-3 league mark (5-7 overall) and put themselves in the East Division title hunt.

The breakthrough came last year. Gill's persistence and grit paid off, and Buffalo kept winning, though none of the wins was easy.

The Bulls tied a Football Bowl Subdivision record with four overtime games (3 wins), including a 40-34 double-OT victory at Bowling Green to lock up the MAC East title.

If that wasn't enough, Gill coached a stunning 42-24 win over a previously unbeaten and then-No. 12 Ball State to claim the conference championship.

After 50 years of sleeping through the postseason, the Bulls claimed a bowl invite (to the International Bowl), the second in the school's 94-year history of playing football. But it was the first bid to be accepted.

(The 1958 Bulls were asked to play in the Tangerine Bowl against Florida State, but declined when it was learned that Buffalo's two black players would not be allowed to compete against white players at the game site in Orlando.)

In the end, the Bulls lost 38-20 to Connecticut last winter, but finished the season 8-6—a far cry from their two-win campaign of 2006.

Now teams are taking notice. With Gill's first-class attitude, determination and great coaching ability, offers to coach BCS programs are rolling in. This past offseason, Auburn and Syracuse both approached Gill about their coaching vacancies.

Though he didn't get either job, an elite BCS program eventually is going to nab this "must-have." And when Gill finally has sunny weather, a big trophy case or a star quarterback, the possibilities will be endless.

TYLER NELSON
COLLEGE FOOTBALL EDITOR

PAUL HOKANSON

SportingNews YEARBOOKS

2009 COLLEGE FOOTBALL JUNE 2009

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Most handicappers NEVER reach the heights.

(Some don't even try.)

ME? I LIVE HERE! COME AND JOIN ME!

Every Opening Day I am ready to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Last year I exploded for **11-4 (73.3%) in the colleges** and **15-6 (71.4%) in the NFL. We swept all our top rated special plays and cleared 42 net units.** 2008 was not a one-time fluke: **We win big EVERY September – for a good reason:**

Jim Hurley's NETWORK®, is my national task force of handicappers, stat men and analysts. After 24 years of success, we are the most experienced but most under-publicized legend in football. We don't just cover conferences, sift the data, and figure matchups. We dig beneath surface factors to come up with fresh insights on every game. That's how we get the drop on Vegas and pounce on their weakest lines!

Subscriber **J. Dudley** of Cleveland wrote us, ***"Thank you for the winners – thank you for the confidence!"*** **Steve T.** of Bellville NY wrote: ***"Your opening two weeks were brilliant. Your August 28 Grand Slam set, me up for my best season ever!"*** (Testimonials available on request.)

How about YOU? Are you ambitious for better things? If you've got the hunger I've got the games!

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- If I **DO** come through, you agree to take my service for the remaining 13 weeks for only $150. Nobody – *nobody* – dares match that guarantee!

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2. FREE: 100 STARS OF EARLY BIRD BONUS PLAYS:

Aug 10	**10-STAR HALL OF FAME GAME**		
Last Year:	**Redskins (-4½)** Colts	30-16	**WON!**
Aug 15	**10-STAR PRE-SEASON GAME OF YEAR**		
Last Year:	**Eagles (+2½)** Patriots	27-17	**WON!**
Sep 5	**10-STAR BACK TO SCHOOL PARLAY**		
Last Year:	**South Carolina (+7½)** Georgia	7-14	**WON!**
	Notre Dame(+2) Michigan	35-17	**WON!**
Sep 12/13	**60-STAR SATURDAY / SUNDAY SIXPACK**		
(NEW)	**60 WINNING UNITS OF SUPERPLAYS**		
Sep 19	**10 STAR GOLDEN GAME OF THE YEAR**		
Last Year:	**UNLV (-2)** Iowa State	34-31	**WON!**

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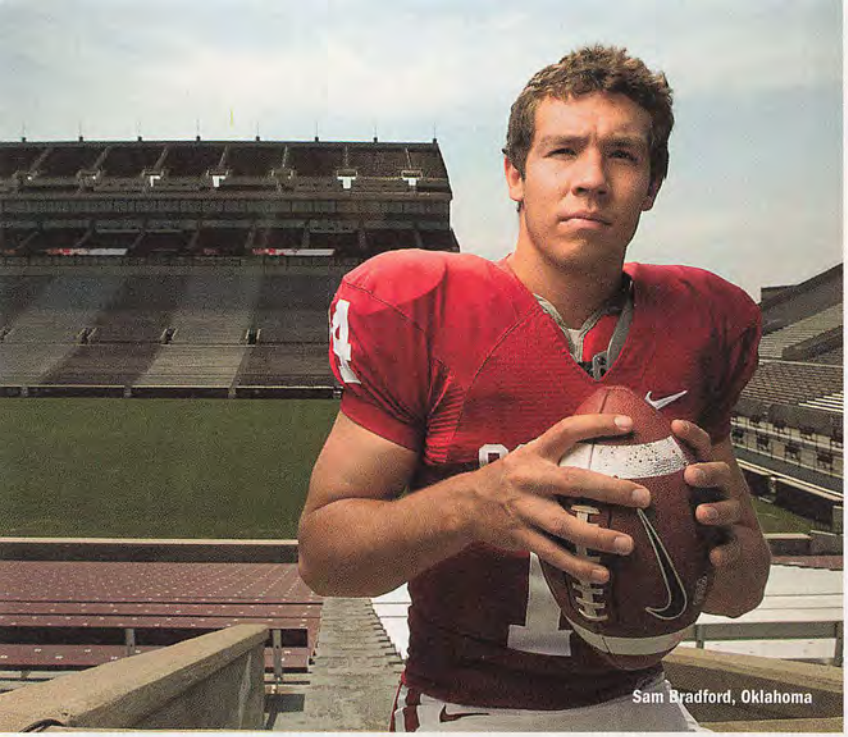
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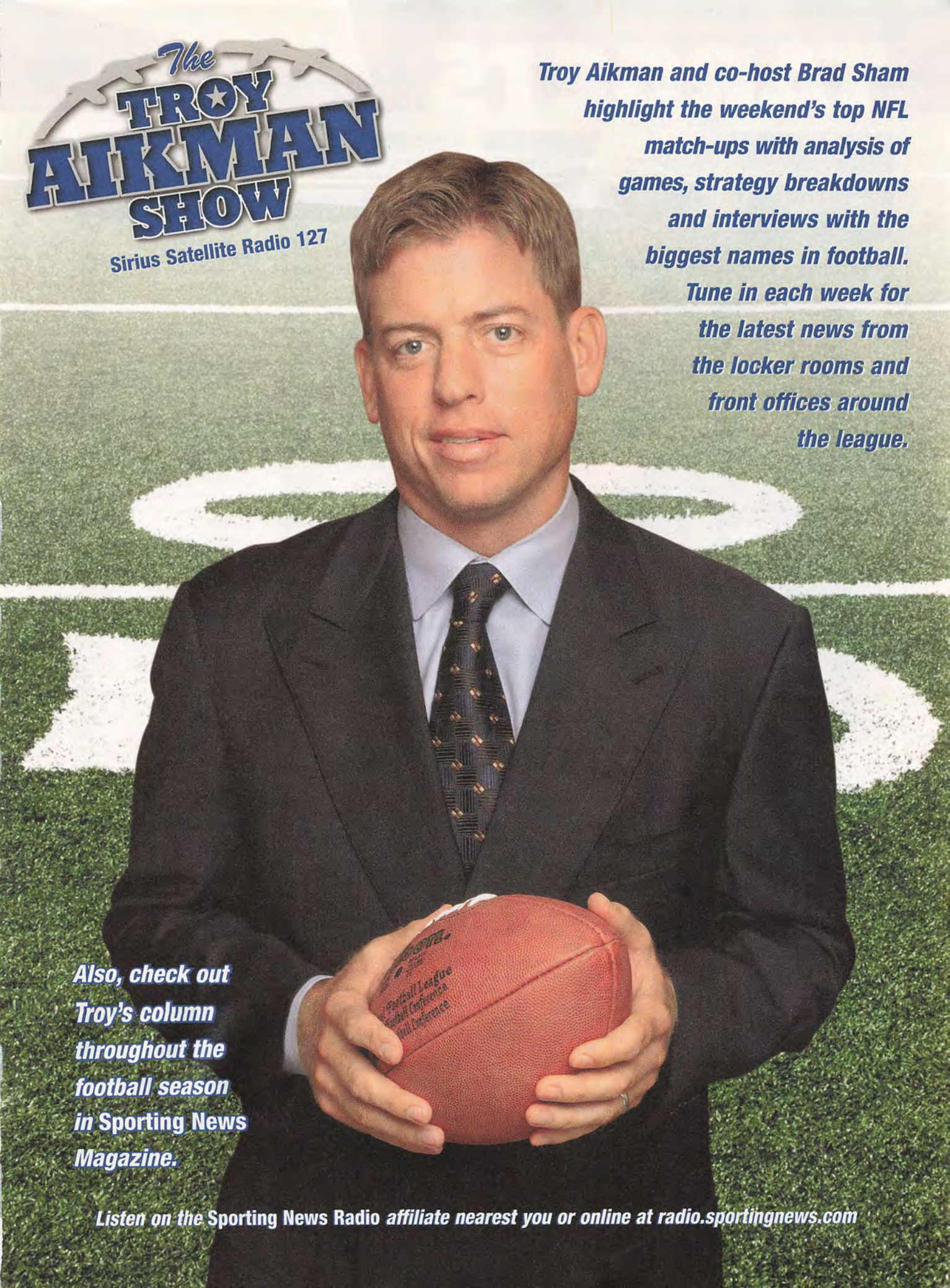
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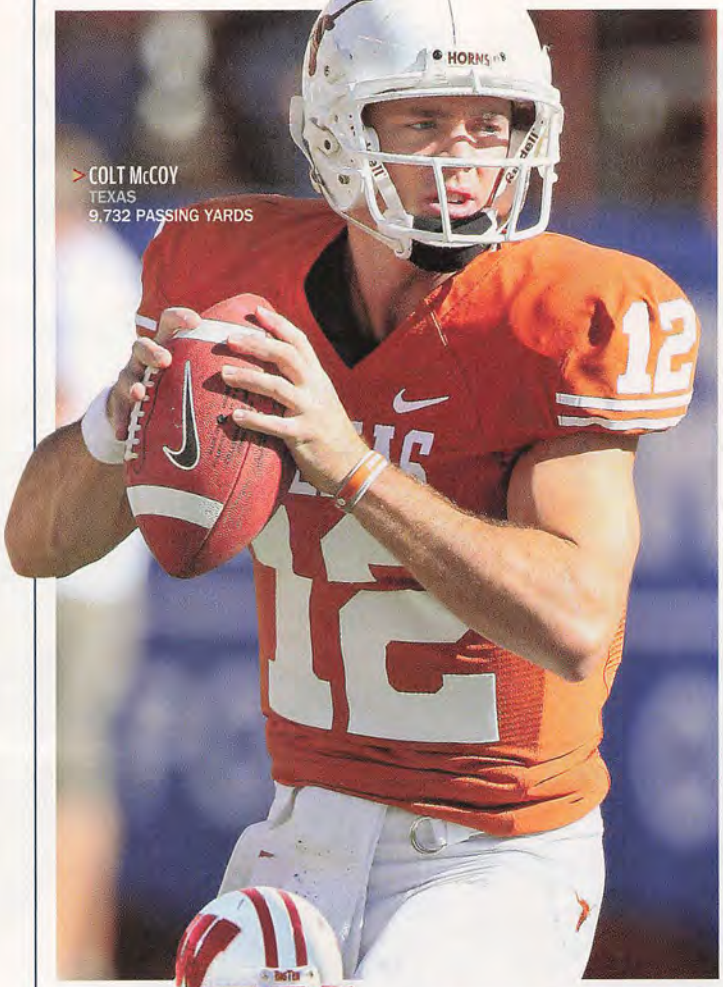
TARGETS

—Compiled by Matt McKenzie

A look at college football's all-time Division I-A leaders and this year's players looking to challenge them.

▸ ACTIVE PLAYERS IN CAPS ▸ STATISTICS COURTESY OF NCAA



▸ COLT McCOY
TEXAS
9,732 PASSING YARDS

PASSING YARDS

David Neill, *Nevada*	10,903
Alex Brink, *Washington State*	10,887
Danny Wuerffel, *Florida*	10,875
Ben Roethlisberger, *Miami (Ohio)*	10,829
Brian Brohm, *Louisville*	10,775
Chad Pennington, *Marshall*	10,698
Matt Leinart, *USC*	10,693
Kevin Sweeney, *Fresno State*	10,623
Andrew Walter, *Arizona State*	10,617
Brett Basanez, *Northwestern*	10,580
Doug Flutie, *Boston College*	10,579
Steve Stenstrom, *Stanford*	10,531
Rudy Carpenter, *Arizona State*	10,491
Jared Lorenzen, *Kentucky*	10,354
Brian McClure, *Bowling Green*	10,280
Troy Kopp, *Pacific*	10,258
Danny Wimprine, *Memphis*	10,215
Paul Pinegar, *Fresno State*	10,145
Eli Manning, *Ole Miss*	10,119
Glenn Foley, *Boston College*	10,042
Cade McNown, *UCLA*	10,008

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

COLT McCOY, *Texas*	9,732
DAN LeFEVOUR, *Central Michigan*	9,467
RUSTY SMITH, *Florida Atlantic*	8,197

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DeAngelo Williams, *Memphis*	60
Eric Crouch, *Nebraska*	59
Glenn Davis, *Army*	59
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(active career leaders)

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Kevin Kelly, *Penn State*	425
Roman Anderson, *Houston*	423

▸ RON DAYNE
WISCONSIN
63 TOUCHDOWNS

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Timmy Chang, *Hawaii*	17,072
Graham Harrell, *Texas Tech*	15,793
Ty Detmer, *BYU*	15,031
Colt Brennan, *Hawaii*	14,193
Philip Rivers, *N.C. State*	13,484
Kevin Kolb, *Houston*	12,964
Tim Rattay, *Louisiana Tech*	12,746
Luke McCown, *Louisiana Tech*	12,666
Chris Redman, *Louisville*	12,541
Chase Daniel, *Missouri*	12,515
Kliff Kingsbury, *Texas Tech*	12,429
Byron Leftwich, *Marshall*	11,903
Chase Holbrook, *New Mexico State*	11,846
Brady Quinn, *Notre Dame*	11,762
David Greene, *Georgia*	11,528
Gino Guidugli, *Cincinnati*	11,453
Todd Santos, *San Diego State*	11,425
Carson Palmer, *USC*	11,388
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Eric Zeier, *Georgia*	11,153
Jordan Palmer, *UTEP*	11,084
Charlie Frye, *Akron*	11,049
John Beck, *BYU*	11,021
Ryan Schneider, *UCF*	10,976
Paul Smith, *Tulsa*	10,924
Alex Van Pelt, *Pittsburgh*	10,913
Drew Brees, *Purdue*	10,909

POINTS

Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech*	414
Billy Bennett, *Georgia*	409
Brock Forsey, *Boise State*	408
Cedric Benson, *Texas*	404
Jeremy Ito, *Rutgers*	400
Carlos Huerta, *Miami (Fla.)*	397
Jason Elam, *Hawaii*	395
Anthony Thompson, *Indiana*	394
Nick Novak, *Maryland*	393
Derek Schmidt, *Florida State*	393
Kris Brown, *Nebraska*	388
Pat McAfee, *West Virginia*	384
Alexis Serna, *Oregon State*	384
Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin*	378
Alex Trlica, *Texas Tech*	377
Marshall Faulk, *San Diego State*	376
Xavier Beitia, *Florida State*	375
Eric Crouch, *Nebraska*	374
Shayne Graham, *Virginia Tech*	371
Jeff Hall, *Tennessee*	371
Justin Ayat, *Hawaii*	370
Steve Azar, *Northern Illinois*	370
Colt David, *LSU*	369
Stephen Gostkowski, *Memphis*	369
Jeff Chandler, *Florida*	368
Luis Zendejas, *Arizona State*	368
DeAngelo Williams, *Memphis*	362
Jeff Wolfert, *Missouri*	362
Brett Jaekle, *Nevada*	361
Shaun Suisham, *Bowling Green*	361
Jarett Dillard, *Rice*	360
Nate Kaeding, *Iowa*	360
Dwone Hicks, *Middle Tennessee*	358
Jeff Jaeger, *Washington*	358
Dusty Mangum, *Texas*	358
Justin Medlock, *UCLA*	357
Tony Dorsett, *Pittsburgh*	356
Ian Johnson, *Boise State*	356
DonTrell Moore, *New Mexico*	356
Glenn Davis, *Army*	354
Garrett Rivas, *Michigan*	354
Kevin Butler, *Georgia*	353
John Lee, *UCLA*	353
Max Zendejas, *Arizona*	353
Derek Mahoney, *Fresno State*	351
Martin Gramatica, *Kansas State*	349
Nick Calaycay, *Boise State*	348
Ken Simonton, *Oregon State*	346
Garrett Wolfe, *Northern Illinois*	344
Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech*	342
LenDale White, *USC*	342
Art Luppino, *Arizona*	337
Sam Swank, *Wake Forest*	337
Chris Lemon, *Nevada*	336
Steve Owens, *Oklahoma*	336
Lee Suggs, *Virginia Tech*	336
Dan Kelly, *Hawaii*	335
Chris Nendick, *Northern Illinois*	332
Steve Slaton, *West Virginia*	330
Wilford White, *Arizona State*	327
Skip Hicks, *UCLA*	324
Barry Sanders, *Oklahoma State*	324
Kory Sheets, *Purdue*	324
LaDainian Tomlinson, *TCU*	324

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

BRETT SWENSON, *Michigan State*	276
TIM TEBOW, *Florida*	258

TOP TO BOTTOM: MARGARET BOWLES / CAL SSPORT MEDIA; BRETT HANSBAUER / US PRESSWIRE

TOUCHDOWN PASSES

Graham Harrell, *Texas Tech*	134
Colt Brennan, *Hawaii*	131
Ty Detmer, *BYU*	121
Timmy Chang, *Hawaii*	117
Tim Rattay, *Louisiana Tech*	115
Danny Wuerffel, *Florida*	114
Chase Daniel, *Missouri*	101
Chad Pennington, *Marshall*	100
Chase Clement, *Rice*	99
Matt Leinart, *USC*	99
Kliff Kingsbury, *Texas Tech*	95
Brady Quinn, *Notre Dame*	95
Philip Rivers, *N.C. State*	95
David Klingler, *Houston*	91
Byron Leftwich, *Marshall*	89
Peyton Manning, *Tennessee*	89
Chris Leak, *Florida*	88
Jordan Palmer, *UTEP*	88
Chad Henne, *Michigan*	87
Troy Kopp, *Pacific*	87
Tim Lester, *Western Michigan*	87
Luke McCown, *Louisiana Tech*	87
SAM BRADFORD, *Oklahoma*	86
Ken Dorsey, *Miami (Fla.)*	86
Bruce Gradkowski, *Tulane*	85
Chase Holbrook, *New Mexico State*	85
Kevin Kolb, *Houston*	85
COLT McCOY, *Texas*	85
Andrew Walter, *Arizona State*	85
Jim McMahon, *BYU*	84
Paul Pinegar, *Fresno State*	84
Chris Redman, *Louisville*	84
Ben Roethlisberger, *Miami (Ohio)*	84
Paul Smith, *Tulsa*	83
Ryan Dinwiddie, *Boise State*	82
Ryan Schneider, *Central Florida*	82
Joe Adams, *Tennessee State*	81
Drew Brees, *Purdue*	81
Rudy Carpenter, *Arizona State*	81
Eli Manning, *Ole Miss*	81
Jason White, *Oklahoma*	81
Danny Wimprine, *Memphis*	81

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

TIM HILLER, *Western Michigan*	76
DAN LeFEVOUR, *Central Michigan*	74
TODD REESING, *Kansas*	68

RUSHING YARDS

Ron Dayne, *Wisconsin*	6,397
Ricky Williams, *Texas*	6,279
Tony Dorsett, *Pittsburgh*	6,082
DeAngelo Williams, *Memphis*	6,026
Charles White, *USC*	5,598
Travis Prentice, *Miami (Ohio)*	5,596
Cedric Benson, *Texas*	5,540
LaDainian Tomlinson, *TCU*	5,263
Herschel Walker, *Georgia*	5,259
Archie Griffin, *Ohio State*	5,177
Avon Cobourne, *West Virginia*	5,164
Garrett Wolfe, *Northern Illinois*	5,164
Mike Hart, *Michigan*	5,040
Darren Lewis, *Texas A&M*	5,012
Darren Sproles, *Kansas State*	4,979
DonTrell Moore, *New Mexico*	4,973
Anthony Thompson, *Indiana*	4,965
George Rogers, *South Carolina*	4,958
Trevor Cobb, *Rice*	4,948
Michael Turner, *Northern Illinois*	4,941
Ray Rice, *Rutgers*	4,926
Paul Palmer, *Temple*	4,895
Steve Bartalo, *Colorado State*	4,813
Ken Simonton, *Oregon State*	4,802
Mike Rozier, *Nebraska*	4,780
Ed Marinaro, *Cornell*	4,715
Denvis Manns, *New Mexico State*	4,692

RUSHING YARDS

Marcus Allen, *USC*	4,682
Kevin Smith, *Central Florida*	4,679
Anthony Davis, *Wisconsin*	4,676

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

DAMION FLETCHER, *Southern Miss*	4,287
EUGENE JARVIS, *Kent State*	3,268
REGGIE ARNOLD, *Arkansas State*	3,210

RECEIVING YARDS

Trevor Insley, *Nevada*	5,005
Marcus Harris, *Wyoming*	4,518
Rashaun Woods, *Oklahoma State*	4,414
Ryan Yarborough, *Wyoming*	4,357
Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech*	4,352
Aaron Turner, *Pacific*	4,345
Terance Mathis, *New Mexico*	4,254
Geoff Noisy, *Nevada*	4,249
Jarett Dillard, *Rice*	4,138
Darius Watts, *Marshall*	4,031
Troy Walters, *Stanford*	3,986
Derek Hagan, *Arizona State*	3,939
Mike Hass, *Oregon State*	3,924
Jason Rivers, *Hawaii*	3,919
Josh Davis, *Marshall*	3,889
Roy Williams, *Texas*	3,866
Chad Mackey, *Louisiana Tech*	3,789
Vincent Marshall, *Houston*	3,770
Marc Zeno, *Tulane*	3,725
Brandon Stokley, *Lousiana-Lafayette*	3,702
Ryne Robinson, *Miami (Ohio)*	3,697
Arnold Jackson, *Louisville*	3,670
David Anderson, *Colorado State*	3,634
Jovon Bouknight, *Wyoming*	3,626
John Standeford, *Purdue*	3,618
Davone Bess, *Hawaii*	3,610
Steve Neal, *Western Michigan*	3,599
Ron Sellers, *Florida State*	3,598
J.R. Tolver, *San Diego State*	3,572
James Newsom, *Oregon State*	3,558
Chris Williams, *New Mexico State*	3,555
Dorien Bryant, *Purdue*	3,548

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

BRYAN ANDERSON, *Central Michigan*	2,864
RYAN WOLFE, *UNLV*	2,735

INTERCEPTIONS

Al Brosky, *Illinois*	29
Martin Bayless, *Bowling Green*	27
John Provost, *Holy Cross*	27
Tom Curtis, *Michigan*	25
Tracy Saul, *Texas Tech*	25
Tony Thurman, *Boston College*	25
Jeff Nixon, *Richmond*	23
Bennie Blades, *Miami (Fla.)*	22
Jim Bolding, *East Carolina*	22
Terrell Buckley, *Florida State*	21
Chuck Cecil, *Arizona*	21
Jamar Fletcher, *Wisconsin*	21
Barry Hill, *Iowa State*	21
Jim Leonhard, *Wisconsin*	21
Mike Sensibaugh, *Ohio State*	21
Alphonso Smith, *Wake Forest*	21
Dave Atkinson, *BYU*	20
Lynn Chandnois, *Michigan State*	20
Mark Collins, *Cal State Fullerton*	20
Charles Jefferson, *McNeese State*	20
Mitch Meeuwsen, *Oregon State*	20
Artimus Parker, *USC*	20
Kevin Smith, *Texas A&M*	20
Jackie Wallace, *Arizona*	20
Chris Williams, *LSU*	20
Bobby Wilson, *Ole Miss*	20
Tom Wilson, *Colgate*	20
Anthony Young, *Temple*	20

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

GREG JAMES, *Louisiana-Monroe*	13
ERIC BERRY, *Tennessee*	12
WALTER THURMOND III, *Oregon*	11

RECEPTIONS

Taylor Stubblefield, *Purdue*	316
Josh Davis, *Marshall*	306
Taurean Henderson, *Texas Tech*	303
Arnold Jackson, *Louisville*	300
Trevor Insley, *Nevada*	298
Geoff Noisy, *Nevada*	295

RECEPTIONS

Rashaun Woods, *Oklahoma State*	293
Davone Bess, *Hawaii*	293
Dorien Bryant, *Purdue*	292
Jarett Dillard, *Rice*	292
Jason Rivers, *Hawaii*	292
Troy Edwards, *Louisiana Tech*	280
Vincent Marshall, *Houston*	272
Darius Watts, *Marshall*	272
A.J. Harris, *New Mexico State*	269
Aaron Turner, *Pacific*	266
Chad Mackey, *Louisiana Tech*	264
Terance Mathis, *New Mexico*	263
Mark Templeton, *Long Beach State*	262
J.R. Tolver, *San Diego State*	262
Howard Twilley, *Tulsa*	261
Jamarko Simmons, *Western Michigan*	260
Marcus Harris, *Wyoming*	259
Michael Thomas, *Arizona*	259
Wes Welker, *Texas Tech*	259
Derek Hagan, *Arizona State*	258
Ryne Robinson, *Miami (Ohio)*	258
Braylon Edwards, *Michigan*	252
Jovon Bouknight, *Wyoming*	250
John Standeford, *Purdue*	249
Nate Burleson, *Nevada*	248
Eric Deslauriers, *Eastern Michigan*	248
Chase Coffman, *Missouri*	247
James Jordan, *Louisiana Tech*	246
Chris Williams, *New Mexico State*	246
David Williams, *Illinois*	245

Knocking on the door
(active career leaders)

BRYAN ANDERSON, *Central Michigan*	226
RYAN WOLFE, *UNLV*	209
NAAMAN ROOSEVELT, *Buffalo*	198

▶ ERIC BERRY
TENNESSEE
12 INTERCEPTIONS

▶ DAN LeFEVOUR
CENTRAL MICHIGAN
74 TOUCHDOWN PASSES

(L TO R): DON MCPEAK / US PRESSWIRE; LEON HALIP / US PRESSWIRE

Best season ... ever?

By Matt Hayes, *Sporting News*

Brace yourselves. This season could be like no other.

Over the next several months, we could witness the greatest player in the history of college football, one of the all-time dynasties in the game's history and only the second two-time winner of the Heisman Trophy. All from one team.

Not to throw any pressure on Tim Tebow and the Florida Gators.

"We have a chance to do something very special," Florida linebacker Brandon Spikes says.

And here's the best part: The Gators aren't alone.

Oklahoma has played in three of the last six BCS National Championship games, losing all three. The Sooners could win it all this fall and stop a five-game losing streak in BCS bowls. And quarterback Sam Bradford, like Tebow, could become just the second player to win a second Heisman.

Texas, jilted last fall by the confounding BCS ratings, can take it out on the Sooners in the Red River Rivalry and shake up the national title race in the process. LSU, like Florida, can become the first team to win three BCS national championships in the series era, and Ole Miss—yep, *Ole Miss*—is a legitimate national title contender.

"There's a buzz around here that these players haven't felt in a long time," Ole Miss coach Houston Nutt says.

It's not just in Oxford, Miss. It's everywhere. Hold on tight, it's going to be a wild ride.

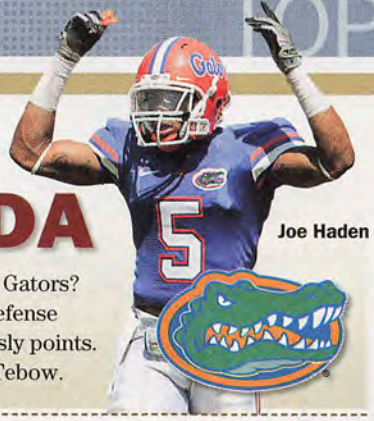
Brandon Spikes, Florida

Colt McCoy, Texas

(L TO R): TIM LARSON / ICON SMI; JAMES D. SMITH / ICON SMI

#1 FLORIDA

What's not to like about the Gators? All 11 starters return from a defense that held Oklahoma to 14 measly points. And there's some guy named Tebow.



Joe Haden

2 Texas » An overlooked factor in the Longhorns' return in '09: Wide receiver Jordan Shipley's rare sixth year of eligibility gives star quarterback Colt McCoy a safe—and dangerous—option.

3 Oklahoma » Forget about the new offensive line protecting Bradford; if it can't run-block, the offense will sputter in big games without a running threat.

4 USC » Three brutal road games (Ohio State, Notre Dame and Oregon) could mean the first three-loss season since 2001, or it will set up the Trojans for another national title run.

5 Ole Miss » Everyone loves the suddenly surging Rebels. The key question: Can Ole Miss deal with success and stay hungry?

"There's a buzz around here that these players haven't felt in a long time"

—Ole Miss coach Houston Nutt

6 Virginia Tech » No more quarterback controversies, no more questionable coaching moves; Tyrod Taylor's time at Tech is now.

7 Oregon » Good luck stopping these two bruising runners: quarterback Jeremiah Masoli and running back LeGarrette Blount—a combined 456 pounds of come-and-get-it.

8 LSU » Look at the bright side: There's no way new quarterback Jordan Jefferson can throw a pick-six seven times in another season. Right?

9 Ohio State » Pencil it in: The Buckeyes, despite some rebuilding, will play in their seventh BCS bowl in the last eight years.

10 Oklahoma State » We give you the Big 12's latest version of Kansas (circa 2007) and Texas Tech (circa 2008): Double-digit wins, no league championship.

11 Georgia Tech » Anyone still scoffing at Yellow Jackets coach Paul Johnson and his funky flexbone offense? Didn't think so.

12 Penn State » Remember the "Joe Must Go" campaign? JoePa, version 2.0: All he does is win games.

13 Alabama » Nick Saban isn't happy about the Tide tanking the Sugar Bowl, and you just know someone has to pay.

14 Boise State » The non-BCS teams just might get an unbeaten Broncos squad to further their playoff argument.

15 Georgia » In another time, without Tim Tebow, Georgia could be the SEC's best team instead of hoping for BCS at-large scraps.

16 Oregon State » The most underrated coach (Mike Riley) and undersized tailback (Jacquizz Rogers) make the Beavers a dangerous team.

17 Florida State » 'Noles must move back into the ACC elite or the pain of mediocrity will stick to coach-in-waiting Jimbo Fisher.

18 Notre Dame » A soft schedule and more athleticism on both sides of the ball will translate to a BCS bowl.

19 Utah » The next trick for the BCS-buster Utes: Find a way to avoid the inevitable drop after a magical season.

20 Texas Tech » Meet quarterback Taylor Potts, everyone. He'll be the guy in your scorebook with 3,500 passing yards and 30-plus touchdowns.

21 California » If the Bears had a few more players like electrifying running back Jahvid Best, the Pac-10 could be a four-team race.

22 BYU » The recipe for a championship: a fifth-year senior quarterback (Max Hall) and a stout defense.

23 North Carolina » It's not Coral Gables just yet, but 'Heels coach Butch Davis has raised the level of talent—and expectations—at UNC.

24 TCU » If only the stock market were as predictable: TCU plays terrific defense, wins 10 games.

25 Kansas » Schedule is backloaded for the Jayhawks, who need another big season from plucky quarterback Todd Reesing to win the Big 12 North.

Jacquizz Rodgers, Oregon State

Max Hall, BYU

CLOCKWISE: SAM GREENWOOD / GETTY IMAGES; JAY DROWNS / SN (2)

Two-time Heisman winner Griffin looking for company atop prestigious pedestal

By Rebecca Rudolph, *Sporting News*

In 1975, a monumental athletic achievement occurred: Ohio State running back Archie Griffin won the Heisman Trophy. Since more than 70 players have won the prestigious award, it begs the question, what's so great about this particular year?

It marked the second time the Ohio State running back won the award given to the most outstanding player in college football. Since its inception in 1935, Griffin is the only player to be honored twice.

"Winning the Heisman changes your life forever," Griffin says." I get asked about the trophy almost every day. Winning means excellence."

Though excellence in 2009 remains to be seen, Florida's Tim Tebow and Oklahoma's Sam Bradford stand out as this year's best college players, and one of them is likely to join Griffin on the minute list of two-time winners.

Last season, Tebow, the 2007 Heisman winner, threw for 2,746 yards and 30 touchdowns. If the Heisman were merely a game of numbers, Tebow would've been casually mentioned in the conversation. But it was his versatility and heroic approach to the game that so impressed voters. Without stellar numbers, the quarterback led the Gators to victories against four top-25 defenses (USC, Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia), as well as a 24-14 win over Oklahoma in the BCS National Championship Game.

"We're glad Tim's on our team," Florida center Maurkice Pouncey says. "There are a lot of good players out there,

Tale of the tape

Tim Tebow

PASSING	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2007	13	172.46	234-350-6	66.9	3286	32	252.8
2008	13	172.37	192-298-4	64.4	2746	30	196.1

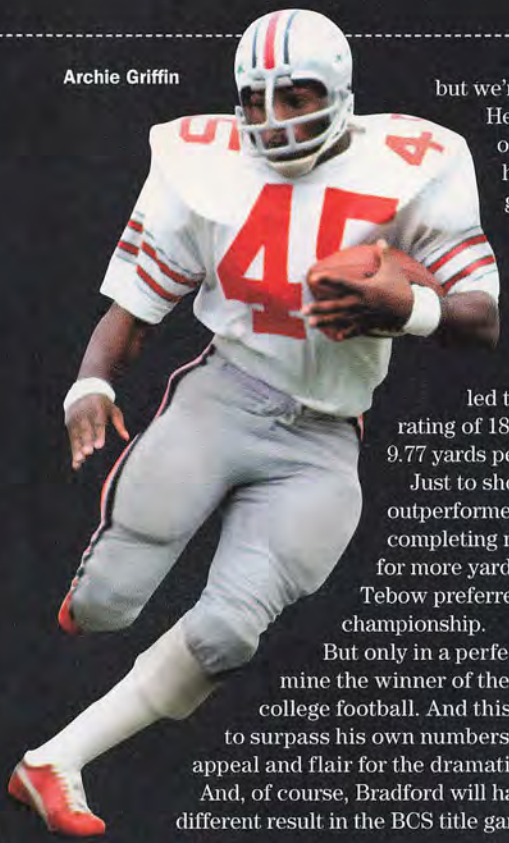
RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
2007	13	210	895	4.3	23	68.8
2008	14	176	673	3.8	12	48.1

Sam Bradford

PASSING	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct	Yds	Td	Avg/G
2007	14	176.53	237-341-8	69.5	3121	36	222.9
2008	14	180.84	328-483-8	67.9	4720	50	337.1

RUSHING	GP	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Avg/G
2007	14	31	7	0.2	0	0.5
2008	14	42	47	1.1	5	3.4

PRESTON MACK FOR SN



Archie Griffin

but we're glad that he's our quarterback. He's a great player and a great leader on this team. He works hard, and he pushes everyone around him to get better every day."

Despite Tebow's considerable appeal, Bradford's numbers were too hard to ignore in 2008. The junior passed for 4,720 yards, 50 touchdowns and only eight interceptions. He also led the nation with a pass-efficiency rating of 180.8 and threw for an eye-popping 9.77 yards per completion.

Just to show it wasn't a fluke, Bradford outperformed Tebow in the title game, completing more passes (26 to Tebow's 18) for more yardage (256 to 231). Of course, Tebow preferred the resulting second national championship.

But only in a perfect world would numbers determine the winner of the most prestigious accolade in college football. And this is no Utopia. Bradford will have to surpass his own numbers to beat out Tebow's magnetic appeal and flair for the dramatic.

And, of course, Bradford will happily trade a second trophy for a different result in the BCS title game.

"Winning the Heisman changes your life forever. I get asked about the trophy almost every day. Winning means excellence."

—Archie Griffin

Other Heisman Candidates to watch

QB Jevan Snead, Jr., Ole Miss: The Rebels are red hot, and the remarkably cool and efficient Snead will take a big jump in Year 2 as a starter.

RB Jonathan Dwyer, Jr., Georgia Tech: Dwyer was a load to bring down in '08 despite running behind an inexperienced line; watch what happens this time around.

RB Kendall Hunter, Jr., Oklahoma State: The nation's most dynamic runner and most dangerous offense—a combination that could translate to 2,000 yards.

QB Zac Robinson, Sr., Oklahoma State: Reggie Bush won the Heisman in 2005 despite Matt Leinart's candidacy. Why not Robinson despite Hunter?

QB Jeremiah Masoli, Sr., Oregon: The Tim Tebow of the West Coast: a bull of a runner and a surprisingly efficient thrower playing in a terrific system.

—Matt Hayes, *Sporting News*

Spoiler Alert! McCoy may surprise in '09

Amid the preseason hoopla surrounding Heisman Trophy winners Tim Tebow and Sam Bradford, Texas quarterback Colt McCoy stands quietly in the proverbial Heisman corner.

But according to his teammate, roommate and friend, Texas wide receiver Jordan Shipley, McCoy knows when to talk and when to play.

"He's got a lot of confidence [in himself] and in the guys he's playing with, and any time you've got a confident guy with ability, it makes a good mix for a leader," Shipley says. "He knows when to say something and when to go out there and play."

In 2008, talk was cheap and McCoy proved he could play, racking up 3,859 passing yards and 561 rushing yards for 45 combined touchdowns. With those numbers, the senior quarterback deserved his second-place Heisman votes.

If McCoy repeats last year's efforts and has the Longhorns in the national title hunt, he could have another banner year and spoil both Tebow's and Bradford's hopes of securing a second Heisman Trophy.

Granted, there's no sneak attack involved. McCoy has kept up with the nation's best quarterbacks since he took over for Vince Young in 2006 and earned the Big 12 Freshman of the Year award. In 2007, McCoy ranked in the top 25 nationally in passing efficiency and in total offensive yards. And last year, he earned the Walter Camp Award, given to the NCAA Player of the Year.

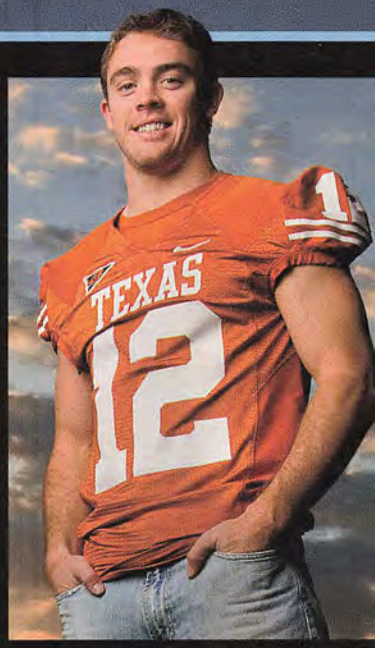
Tebow even told the *Associated Press* last season that McCoy could get his vote for the 2008 Heisman.

"[McCoy's] playing extremely well and doing a great job leading his team and handles it with a lot of class, too," said Tebow last October of his choice for the Heisman.

Tebow might not feel the same this year, as he's promised himself a better performance in '09, while he and Bradford yearn for that elusive second Heisman.

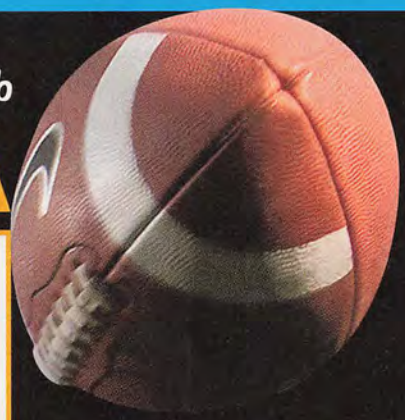
But McCoy, who's been sitting quietly in the corner, could be the wrench that ruins it for them.

— *Rebecca Rudolph*



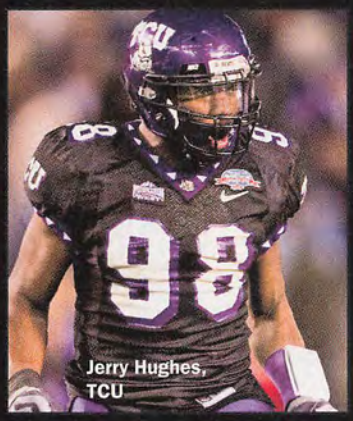
CLOCKWISE: MALCOLM EMMONS-US / PRESSWIRE; BOB LEVERONE / SN (2); JAY DROWNS / SN (3); ROBERT SEALE FOR SN

2009 Sporting News & Walter Camp ALL-AMERICA TEAM

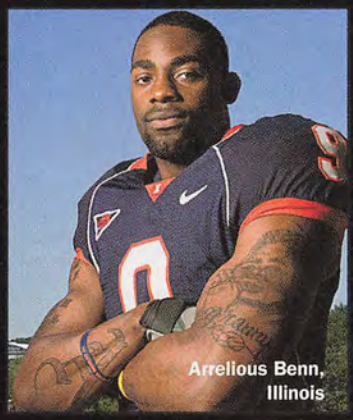


Jonathan Dwyer, Georgia Tech

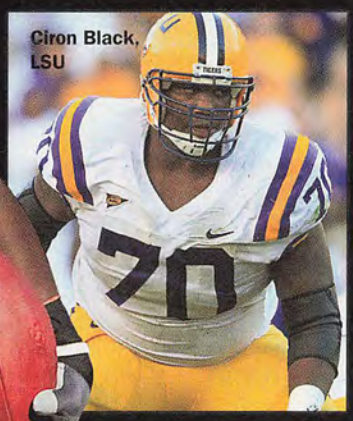
Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State



Jerry Hughes, TCU



Arrelious Benn, Illinois



Ciron Black, LSU

CLOCKWISE: BOB LEVERONE / SN; ALAN SMITH / CAL SSPORT MEDIA; FRED BARNES FOR SN; BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN; PETER G. AIKEN / US PRESSWIRE

1 First Team

Offense

QB	TIM TEBOW	Sr., Florida
RB	KENDALL HUNTER	Jr., Oklahoma State
RB	JONATHAN DWYER	Jr., Georgia Tech
WR	DEZ BRYANT	Jr., Oklahoma State
WR	ARRELIOUS BENN	Jr., Illinois
TE	JERMAINE GRESHAM	Sr., Oklahoma
OL	BRYAN BULAGA	Jr., Iowa
OL	CIRON BLACK	Sr., LSU
OL	RODNEY HUDSON	Jr., Florida State
OL	BRANDON CARTER	Sr., Texas Tech
OL	KRISTOFER O'DOWD	Jr., USC
K	KAI FORBATH	Jr., UCLA
KR	PERRISH COX	Sr., Oklahoma State

Defense

DE	GEORGE SELVIE	Sr., USF
DE	JERRY HUGHES	Sr., TCU
DE	NDAMUKONG SUH	Sr., Nebraska
DE	GERALD McCOY	Jr., Oklahoma
LB	BRANDON SPIKES	Sr., Florida
LB	ROLANDO McCLAIN	Jr., Alabama
LB	SERGIO KINDLE	Sr., Texas
DB	JOE HADEN	Jr., Florida
DB	WALTER THURMOND	Sr., Oregon
DB	TAYLOR MAYS	Sr., USC
DB	ERIC BERRY	Jr., Tennessee
P	ROSS THEVENOT	Sr., Tulane
PR	BRANDON JAMES	Sr., Florida

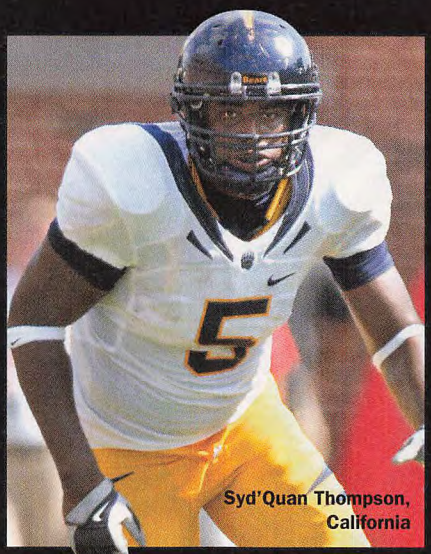
2 Second Team

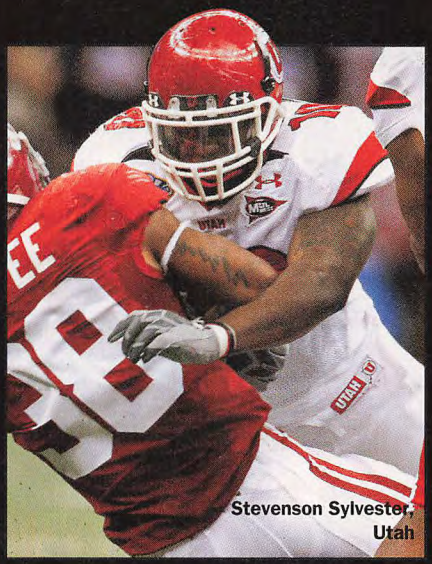
Offense

QB	Sam Bradford, Jr., Oklahoma
RB	Jahvid Best, Jr., California
RB	Evan Royster, Jr., Penn State
WR	Damian Williams, Jr., USC
WR	Jordan Shipley, Sr., Texas
TE	Dennis Pitta, Sr., BYU
OL	Russell Okung, Sr., Oklahoma State
OL	Trent Williams, Sr., Oklahoma
OL	Stefen Wisniewski, Jr., Penn State
OL	Mike Johnson, Sr., Alabama
OL	Maurkice Pouncey, Jr., Florida
K	Thomas Weber, Jr., Arizona State
KR	C.J. Spiller, Sr., Clemson

Defense

DE	Carlos Dunlap, Jr., Florida
DE	Greg Hardy, Sr., Ole Miss
DE	Terrence Cody, Sr., Alabama
DE	Brian Price, Jr., UCLA
LB	Joe Pawelek, Sr., Baylor
LB	Navorro Bowman, So., Penn State
LB	Mark Herzlich, Sr., Boston College
DB	Trevard Lindley, Sr., Kentucky
DB	Syd'Quan Thompson, Sr., California
DB	Morgan Burnett, Jr., Georgia Tech
DB	Ahmad Black, Jr., Florida
P	Derek Epperson, Jr., Baylor
PR	Antonio Brown, Jr., Central Michigan


Syd'Quan Thompson, California


Stevenson Sylvester, Utah

3 Third Team

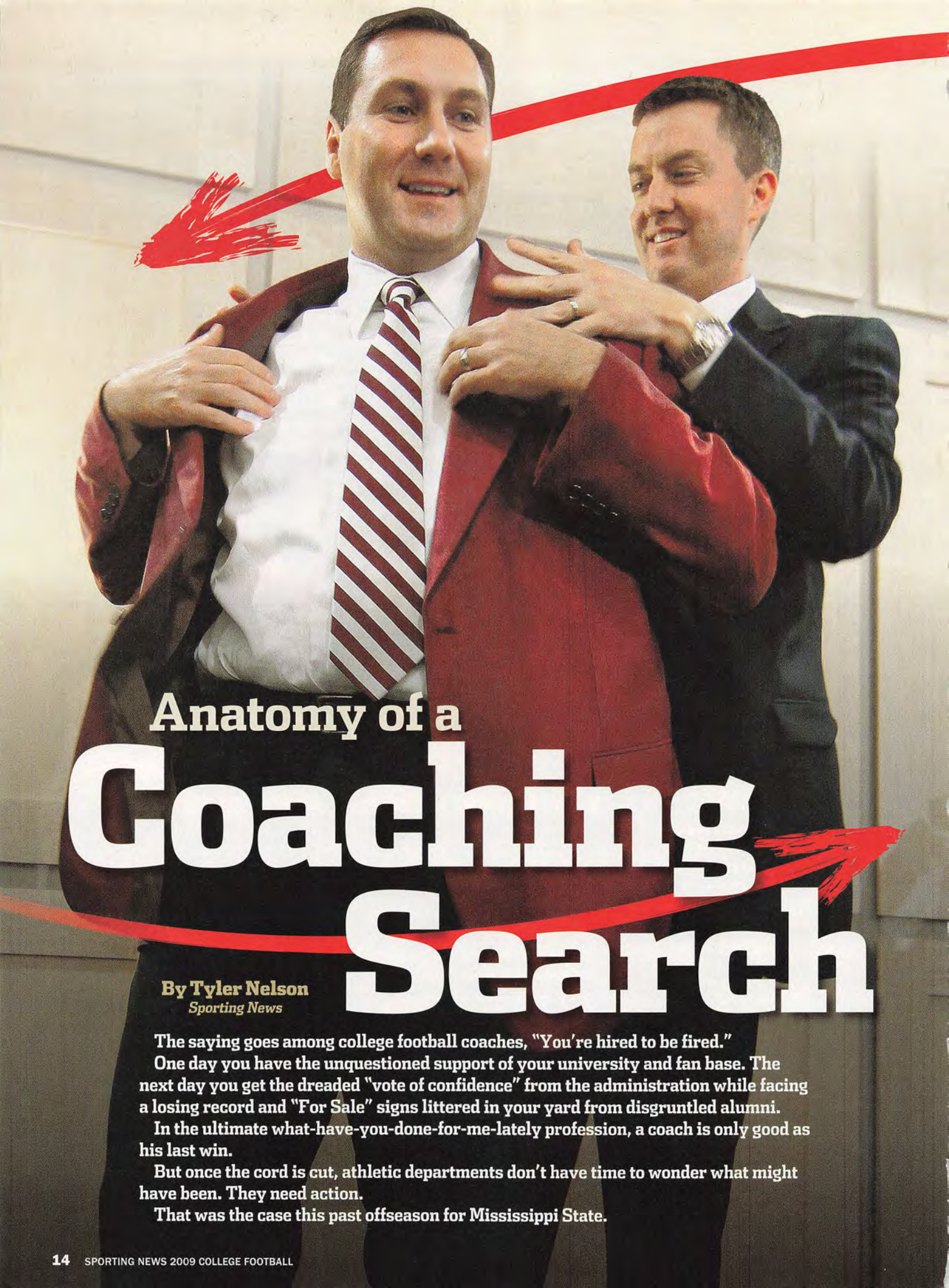
Offense

QB	Colt McCoy, Sr., Texas
RB	Jacquizz Rodgers, So., Oregon State
RB	LeGarrette Blount, Sr., Oregon
WR	Mardy Gilyard, Sr., Cincinnati
WR	Golden Tate, Jr., Notre Dame
TE	Aaron Hernandez, Jr., Florida
OL	Adam Ulatoski, Sr., Texas
OL	John Jerry, Sr., Ole Miss
OL	Jeff Byers, Sr., USC
OL	Eric Olsen, Sr., Notre Dame
OL	Josh McNeil, Sr., Tennessee
K	Philip Welch, So., Wisconsin
KR	DeMarco Murray, Jr., Oklahoma

Defense

DE	Brandon Graham, Sr., Michigan
DE	Dexter Davis, Sr., Arizona State
DE	Jared Odrick, Sr., Penn State
DE	Ted Laurent, Jr., Ole Miss
LB	Sean Weatherspoon, Sr., Missouri
LB	Rennie Curran, Jr., Georgia
LB	Stevenson Sylvester, Sr., Utah
DB	Stephan Virgil, Sr., Virginia Tech
DB	Kyle Wilson, Sr., Boise State
DB	Earl Thomas, So., Texas
DB	Deunta Williams, Jr., North Carolina
P	Brad Langley, Jr., Nevada
PR	Javier Arenas, Sr., Alabama

(L TO R): MITCHELL LAYTON / GETTY IMAGES; MITCH DUMKE / UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SPORTS INFORMATION



Anatomy of a Coaching Search

By Tyler Nelson
Sporting News

The saying goes among college football coaches, "You're hired to be fired."

One day you have the unquestioned support of your university and fan base. The next day you get the dreaded "vote of confidence" from the administration while facing a losing record and "For Sale" signs littered in your yard from disgruntled alumni.

In the ultimate what-have-you-done-for-me-lately profession, a coach is only good as his last win.

But once the cord is cut, athletic departments don't have time to wonder what might have been. They need action.

That was the case this past offseason for Mississippi State.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen tries on his new colors, helped by athletic director Greg Byrne.

Five years ago, then-Mississippi State athletic director Larry Templeton introduced coach Sylvester Croom as the new face of the Bulldogs. The program, just seasons removed from a 1998 trip to the Southeastern Conference Championship Game, needed a morale boost after only eight wins in the last three years of then-coach Jackie Sherrill's tenure. Bulldog fans embraced Croom as he promised to return the team to postseason contention "the right way," but asked his supporters to be patient due to the long work ahead of him.

After three straight years of three-win seasons and growing frustration from fans, Croom seemed to have broken through in 2007. That season, the Bulldogs won eight games, including the Liberty Bowl, and Croom was honored as the SEC Coach of the Year.

However, the team wasn't able to capitalize on its momentum the next year. An upset in the season opener against Louisiana Tech set the tone for the year, and as the team struggled to four wins, irritated fans became apathetic. The last straw came after an embarrassing loss to rival Ole Miss (45-0) on Nov. 28.

Greg Byrne, who replaced Templeton as athletic director in July of '08, spoke on the phone to Croom that night and agreed to meet in Byrne's office the next morning. At the close of the meeting, Croom handed in his letter of resignation.

"It was a tough time for him personally and the athletic department," Byrne says.

And so began the national search.

After a head coach leaves, the athletic department springs into action, hoping to get a home-run hire, given the amount of time and increased scrutiny it has.

Some teams, like Tennessee, had the benefit of extra weeks to conduct a search.

The Volunteers, far removed from their 1998 national championship, muddled through the last few seasons under coach Philip Fulmer. Since the championship season, Tennessee has gone 20-28 against Top 25 opponents, as opposed to 23-9 from 1992 (when Fulmer became the coach) to 1998.

Following a humbling 27-6 loss to South Carolina on Nov. 1, Tennessee was on the way to its second losing season in the past four years. The glory days were over and athletic director Mike Hamilton opted for a change.

"Our Tennessee family is united in its goals, but divided in the right path to get there," said a teary-eyed Fulmer at his farewell press conference on Nov. 4. "I love Tennessee too much to let her stay divided."

"It was gut-wrenching," says Hamilton of Fulmer's departure. "But we felt it was the best thing to do for our program and institution."

The early move gave the Vols additional time to research candidates and, most importantly, announce to potential suitors that Tennessee was hiring.

During a coaching search, athletic departments hunker down to find the best possible candidate to lead their franchise, but sometimes they get a little help from the outside.

A trend has developed in the hiring of search firms to assist in the undertaking, like Neinas Sports Services or Parker Executive Search. They play the role of middle men by discreetly contacting clients, figuring out logistics, etc. Though the move is criticized by fans and media for spending the department's dollars unwisely, athletic directors argue they are beneficial.

"One role of a search firm is to gauge interest," says Washington athletic director Scott Woodward, who hired Parker Executive Search to help contact current Huskies coach Steve Sarkisian. "They help you go through the courting stages, like in a relationship—first there's conversations, then holding hands and finally you get that kiss. You just want to make sure there is mutual interest."

"It was gut-wrenching," Hamilton says of Fulmer's departure. "But we felt it was the best thing to do for our program and institution."

While the search firms play the role of a "Do you like me? Check yes or no" note, they also assume the role of mediator so there won't be a bad breakup.

"We had potential candidates with Auburn ties and [the search firm] helped take the emotion out of it because I knew the three personally," recalls Auburn athletic director Jay Jacobs, who hired consultant Chuck Neinas to help in his search. "It allowed for straight, honest communications."

The consensus among athletic directors for utilizing outside help is their secret. The firms, known for being tight-lipped, kept the flow of information from leaking.

"I didn't want to compromise our search," says Byrne, who also hired Neinas.

It worked so well that Byrne's stealth-like maneuvering led interim Mississippi State president Roy Ruby to say he had a career in the Secret Service waiting for him, and members of a message board to donned him "The Ninja."

The saying goes among college football coaches, **"YOU'RE HIRED TO BE FIRED."**

Besides trying to lure potential candidates, there are other variables an athletic director must navigate.

Despite the current economic climate, college football remains a big business. Yes, some programs had to tighten their purse strings, and even though Alabama hired Nick Saban in 2007 well before the current economic downturn, it gave substance to the adage, "To make money, you have to spend money."

This past year, *Forbes* called Saban "The Most Powerful Coach in Sports" and pointed out that the year of his hire, the Crimson Tide football program had a $54 million revenue with an estimated $32 million profit.

At Tennessee, it is no different. The Volunteers will pay their football coaches around $5.3 million in 2009 (with Lane Kiffin set to make $2 million) in hopes of a financial windfall—and, of course, national championships.

OPPOSITE PAGE: V. SOLIS / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS
WADE PAYNE / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

BACKGROUND

Nov. 28, 2008 – Mississippi State loses 45-0 to Ole Miss.

Nov. 29 – Sylvester Croom resigns as coach. Athletic director Greg Byrne hires sports consultant Chuck Neinas and begins to discuss candidates.

Nov. 30 – Staff meets again about candidates.

BYRNE'S TIMELINE

A **Dec. 1 (Mon.)** – Drove to Tupelo, Miss., for first interview.

B **Dec. 2 (Tues.)** – Drove back to Starkville, helped the staff research and conduct background checks on candidates.

C **Dec. 3 (Wed.)** – Flew from Starkville to Atlanta.

D **Dec. 4 (Thur.)** – Interviewed candidates in Atlanta throughout the day.

E **Dec. 5 (Fri.)** – Flew from Atlanta to Kansas City.

F **Dec. 6 (Sat.)** – Flew from Kansas City to Starkville. Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley and coach Urban Meyer approach Gators assistant Dan Mullen about Mississippi State's interest in him.

G **Dec. 7 (Sun.)** – Conducted phone interviews in Starkville; later drove to Tupelo for another interview.

H **Dec. 8 (Mon.)** – Flew to Dallas and returned back to Starkville.

I **Dec. 9 (Tues.)** – Drove to Tuscaloosa and later flew to Atlanta to meet with Mullen.

J **Dec. 10 (Wed)** – Offered the job to Mullen. Flew from Atlanta to Starkville, where Mullen was officially introduced at a press conference the next day.

Ramblin' Man

When coach Sylvester Croom resigned a day after Mississippi State's season was over, athletic director Greg Byrne didn't have any time to waste. With the help of Neinas Sports Services, Byrne, associate athletic director Scott Stricklin and a small staff researched and vetted candidates. Byrne even enlisted the advice of coaching heavyweights Jim Tressel, Mike Bellotti and Rich Rodriguez. Though Byrne couldn't mention whom he interviewed for privacy reasons, here is his 13-day itinerary during the search:

"Football is the engine that is driving the train," Hamilton says. "You want to invest in your core business."

It can be much different at a smaller program. Take New Mexico State, for example. After another dreadful year under Hal Mumme, Aggies athletic director McKinley Boston decided to change the direction of a program that hadn't made a bowl game since 1960. But the bottom line was also a factor. Boston noted the lagging attendance, low corporate support and the fact that the recent 10-year business model for athletics depended on a profitable team.

The resources at New Mexico State are a far cry from the days when he served as the athletic director for Minnesota in the early 1990s. Boston noted that Mumme's $385,000 buyout was a big obstacle.

"When I was at Minnesota, that wouldn't have been a problem," Boston says.

Prior to luring promising UCLA assistant DeWayne Walker to Las Cruces, Boston needed a financial plan.

"Before we met with the candidates, we set parameters based on experience. Instead of negotiations, I was up front with everyone with what the salary was going to be," he says.

As Byrne prepared for his search, he was confident money wasn't going to be an issue, even after reportedly honoring Croom's $3 million buyout clause.

"We have a very loyal fan base and I felt we could put together a nice package for any candidate," Byrne remembers. "We weren't about to have our hands tied behind our backs."

Athletic directors deal with more than coaches in their quest for successful programs. Media, in all of its forms, has also taken center stage.

In an information age propped up by a culture of instant gratification, rumor becomes fact in a matter of minutes. Fans posting to online message boards are not only allowed to spread innuendo, but they're encouraged. And if a legitimate news organization runs with it—watch out. The suspense is one of the main draws under the big top known as the coaching carousel.

Shortly after the firing of Ron Prince in early November, a Kansas State fan Web site reported that TCU's Gary Patterson would return to his alma mater to coach the Wildcats. Patterson killed the intense speculation when he told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* he wasn't interested.

"I'm not real happy with people who fire people before the season is over," Patterson says. "And I would be less happy with anybody who would ever talk about taking another job until they finish their own."

Bill Snyder eventually came out of retirement to return to the Kansas State sidelines.

During the Syracuse search, the NFL Network reported East Carolina's Skip Holtz would replace Greg Robinson as the team's next coach. Holtz later called the story "inaccurate" and the Orange ended up hiring Doug Marrone.

On Dec. 5., misinformation on

COURTESY DARREN PHILLIPS

Before hiring DeWayne Walker (right), New Mexico State made sure to have a budgetary plan.

a Michigan State fan Web site caused a firestorm in the Mississippi State search. The site reported the Bulldogs would soon land one of the most prominent up-and-coming coaches in the nation—Boise State's Chris Petersen.

Once the dots were connected, it made sense. Byrne and Petersen worked together at Oregon during the mid-90s and, thanks to similar interests and backgrounds, the two struck up a friendship that has continued to this day.

Soon, message boards and sports talk radio from Starkville to Boise felt the reverberations. Local television stations even interrupted programming to report the happenings.

It got so out of hand, Byrne decided to call Petersen about the firestorm.

"I got to put something out," Petersen says.

Hours later, Petersen released a statement explaining he was not offered the position nor would he take it despite his respect for Byrne.

Byrne explained that he did speak to Petersen—as he did with many other prominent coaches—but just on advice about whom to consider.

"I knew he wasn't going to leave Boise," Byrne says. "Our industry as a whole acts like [the message boards] don't exist, but they aren't going away. That's why you have to stay on the front end of communication."

Following the flap, Byrne continued to crisscross to different locales via private plane—courtesy of a donor so the flight path would be harder to track—to interview candidates.

One of the candidates Byrne expressed interest in was Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen. The 36-year-old had the traits Byrne viewed as necessary for program: an innovator on offense, a proven recruiter with boundless energy and SEC battle-tested.

Under coach Urban Meyer, Mullen was credited for constructing a potent spread offense at Bowling Green, Utah and Florida that gave defenses fits. He has tutored No. 1 NFL draft pick Alex Smith and 2007 Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow.

Despite not knowing he was coveted, Mullen began assembling index cards the week of the SEC Championship Game just in case a school came calling.

"I just wanted to be prepared," he says.

After he was done breaking down film of the Alabama defense, Mullen, who hadn't interviewed for a job since landing a graduate assistantship with Syracuse in 1998, scoured his notebook for bullet points. The notebook had things he's picked up from being an assistant coach, like how he'd run a spring practice, handle academics, etc.

After Byrne expressed interest in meeting with Mullen, Florida athletic director Jeremey Foley requested he not be approached until after the SEC Championship game on Dec. 6. After the Gators beat Alabama, Foley and Meyer informed Mullen of Mississippi State's interest in him.

After a day of not hearing anything and researching Mississippi State, Mullen went about his normal routine and traveled to meet a few potential recruits for Florida.

"The area of Jacksonville I was in didn't have very good cell reception," Mullen says. "When I turned my phone back on after leaving the school, I had two messages. The first was Florida telling me coach Meyer was going to be out and I needed to get back to run practice. The second was asking if I'd call Greg Byrne back."

Mullen called his wife, who was seven months pregnant at the time, and asked her to get everything in line as he prepared for practice. In a matter of hours, she booked Mullen a flight from Gainesville to Atlanta, finished preparing and organizing his notes and prepared a suit for him.

On Dec. 10, Mullen caught his flight to Atlanta, where he met Byrne for the first time. The two got together around 9 p.m. and exchanged pleasantries, and small talk quickly turned to football discussions.

Then Byrne peppered him with almost every scenario a college coach would face.

"We went from A to Z. We talked about everything from academics to zone defense," Byrne says. "I could tell he had a good grasp on what he was doing; he was very smart. Within 30 minutes, I knew this was our guy."

The two eventually parted ways at 3:30 a.m. Just minutes after he arrived in his room, Mullen received a call from Byrne.

"Would you mind meeting at 7 a.m.?" Byrne asked.

"I immediately called my wife to tell her the news and to make sure she was on board," Mullen says. "Being a college coach is very nerve-racking, and we had to be 100-percent committed to this venture. Luckily, we were both excited about the opportunity."

It didn't take long for Mississippi State fans to show their enthusiasm over Byrne's hiring of Mullen.

After two hours of sleep, the two met again and Byrne officially offered him the job. Mullen accepted it. Later that day, the two were in Starkville.

"I want to build a winning program the fans will be proud of," Mullen says. "With just the talent alone in this state, I certainly think we can get back to Atlanta (SEC Championship Game)."

On Dec. 11, Mullen, at a price of $1.2 million a year, was formally introduced to a raucous crowd in the brand-new Templeton Athletic Academic Center.

Byrne helped a grinning Mullen put on a maroon blazer. The screaming Bulldog faithful rang their cowbells with approval and optimism filled every inch of the room.

It was the last day he'd relax.

JIM LYTLE / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

ACC

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

ATLANTIC

1 Florida State
2 N.C. State
3 Wake Forest
4 Clemson
5 Maryland
6 Boston College

COASTAL

1 Virginia Tech
2 Georgia Tech
3 North Carolina
4 Miami
5 Virginia
6 Duke

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Jacoby Ford, Clemson

Best Hands
Rich Gunnell, WR, Boston College

Best Passing QB
Riley Skinner, Wake Forest

Best Running QB
Josh Nesbitt, Georgia Tech

Most Elusive RB
C.J. Spiller, Clemson

Best Instincts
Mark Herzlich, LB, Boston College

Best Athlete
Greg Boone, TE, Virginia Tech

Best Under Pressure
Russell Wilson, QB, N.C. State

Top NFL Prospect
Jonathan Dwyer, RB, Georgia Tech

Top Impact Freshman
Ray Ray Armstrong, S, Miami

Hardest Hitter
Nate Irving, LB, N.C. State

Biggest Underachiever
Mikell Simpson, RB, Virginia

Best Home-Field Advantage
Clemson

Best Fans
Clemson

Best Mascot
Buzz, Georgia Tech

Best Stadium
Dolphin Stadium, Miami

Overwhelming balance will mean no national contender for another year

By Dan Collins, *Winston-Salem Journal* (ACC Atlantic previews) and **Ken Tysiac,** *Charlotte Observer* (ACC Coastal previews)

The conference-wide importance of Virginia Tech's 20-7 defeat of Cincinnati in the 2009 Orange Bowl wasn't lost on the Hokie players.

"It was great to get that win for the ACC, and also for us, having a long drought," says Virginia Tech cornerback Stephan Virgil.

Winning the Orange Bowl helped the ACC establish some credibility and head into this season with momentum, as the Hokies broke the ACC's eight-game losing streak in BCS games.

They helped the ACC finish with a 4-6 mark while competing in an NCAA-record 10 bowl games after going 3-1 against the SEC in the final week of the regular season. The respectable finish salvaged a season that started ugly when Virginia Tech lost to East Carolina; SEC schools Alabama and South Carolina pummeled Clemson and N.C. State, respectively; and USC crushed Virginia.

But, as it begins its fifth season since expanding to 12 schools, the ACC still has a long way to go before it's considered a powerhouse conference.

Though ACC coaches tout the conference's balance, it hasn't had a team contend for the national championship since Florida State lost to Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 3, 2001.

Here's what is on tap:

•Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech appear to be the favorites in the Coastal Division, with Florida State and N.C. State the best of a struggling bunch in the Atlantic.

•The ACC Championship Game is set for a second season in Tampa, where attendance was dismal for Virginia Tech and Boston College last year. Charlotte, located near the center of the conference, gets a two-year crack at the title game beginning in 2010.

•An opening-week schedule that includes N.C. State at home against South Carolina, Virginia Tech versus Alabama in Atlanta and Maryland at California offers an opportunity for the ACC to win some big games.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Mike Farrell, *Rivals.com*

1. FLORIDA STATE Defensive tackle Jacobbi McDaniel and defensive back Greg Reid are five-star talents.
2. NORTH CAROLINA Butch Davis once again proved he is one of the top recruiters in the nation.
3. MIAMI The Hurricanes didn't need a big class, so they are only bringing in 19 prospects.
4. VIRGINIA TECH There is plenty of incoming talent at running back and across the board on defense for the Hokies.
5. MARYLAND D.J. Adams and Caleb Porzel are a pair of four-star running backs who should see early time.
6. VIRGINIA This is another solid class for Al Groh.
7. CLEMSON The quality is extremely high from top to bottom, with quarterback Tajh Boyd leading the way offensively.
8. GEORGIA TECH Jordan Luallen and talented athlete David Sims should push for early time at quarterback.
9. DUKE The Blue Devils have perhaps the most surprising class in the league.
10. NC STATE Tom O'Brien's staff did a nice job landing defensive back Jarvis Byrd out of Florida.
11. WAKE FOREST The Demon Deacons again hit the Sunshine State hard, signing six talented prospects from Florida.
12. BOSTON COLLEGE Linebackers Andre Lawrence and Luke Kuechly are talented playmakers and defensive tackle Dillon Quinn will play early.

ASCENDING

N.C. STATE Russell Wilson and Mike Glennon give the Wolfpack two excellent young quarterbacks. Five seniors plus hard-hitting junior Nate Irving make for a stout defensive front seven.

DESCENDING

BOSTON COLLEGE Frank Spaziani is the Eagles' third head coach in four years after Jeff Jagodzinski's bizarre departure. Lack of continuity and a shaky quarterback situation foretells a weakened team.

ALL-ACC

OFFENSE

QB Russell Wilson, So., N.C. State
RB Jonathan Dwyer, Jr., Georgia Tech
RB C.J. Spiller, Sr., Clemson
OL Ed Wang, Sr., Virginia Tech
OL Rodney Hudson, Jr., Florida State
OL Matt Tennant, Sr., Boston College
OL Thomas Austin, Sr., Clemson
OL Jason Fox, Sr., Miami
TE Greg Boone, Sr., Virginia Tech
WR Rich Gunnell, Sr., Boston College
WR Jacoby Ford, Sr., Clemson

DEFENSE

DL Derrick Morgan, Jr., Georgia Tech
DL Boo Robinson, Sr., Wake Forest
DL Vince Oghobaase, Sr., Duke
DL Jason Worilds, Jr., Virginia Tech
LB Mark Herzlich, Sr., Boston College
LB Nate Irving, Jr., N.C. State
LB Alex Wujciak, Jr., Maryland
DB Ras-I Dowling, Jr., Virginia
DB Stephan Virgil, Sr., Virginia Tech
DB Morgan Burnett, Jr., Georgia Tech
DB Deunta Williams, Jr., North Carolina

SPECIALISTS

K Travis Baltz, Jr., Maryland
P Matt Bosher, Jr., Miami

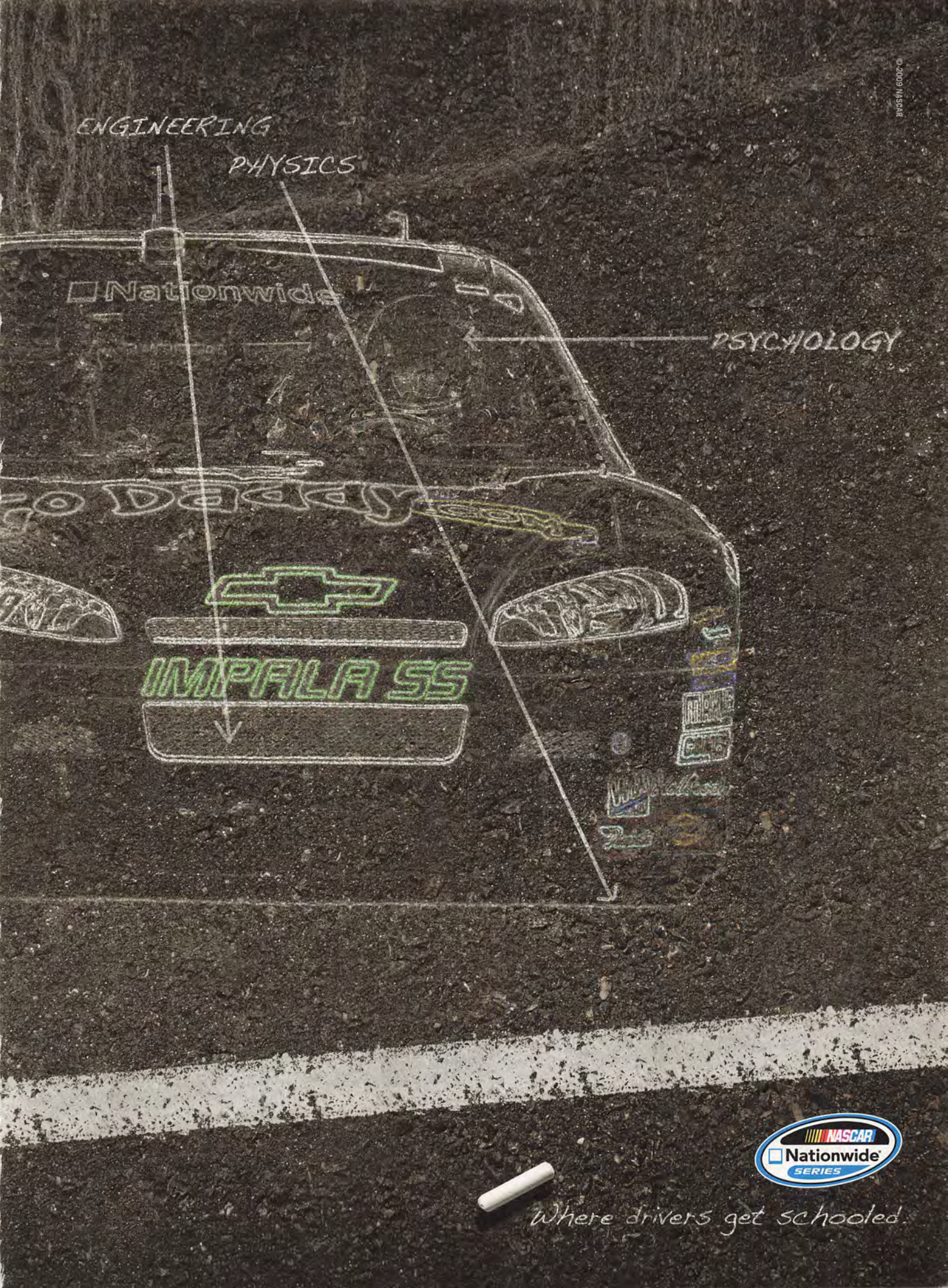
FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 Bobby Bowden will retire at the end of the 2009 season. Florida State's probation—which was none of his doing—may break his heart and sap his passion.

2 No team will finish better than 6-2 in ACC play. Once again, there's no dominating team in the conference to contend for a national title.

3 This is Bud Foster's Hokie finale. The brilliant Virginia Tech defensive coordinator will finally get a head-coaching job after this season.

4 Running quarterbacks will rule. Russell Wilson, Tyrod Taylor and Josh Nesbitt lead three of the top contenders for the ACC title.


ENGINEERING
PHYSICS
PSYCHOLOGY
Nationwide
IMPALA SS
NASCAR
Nationwide
SERIES
Where drivers get schooled.

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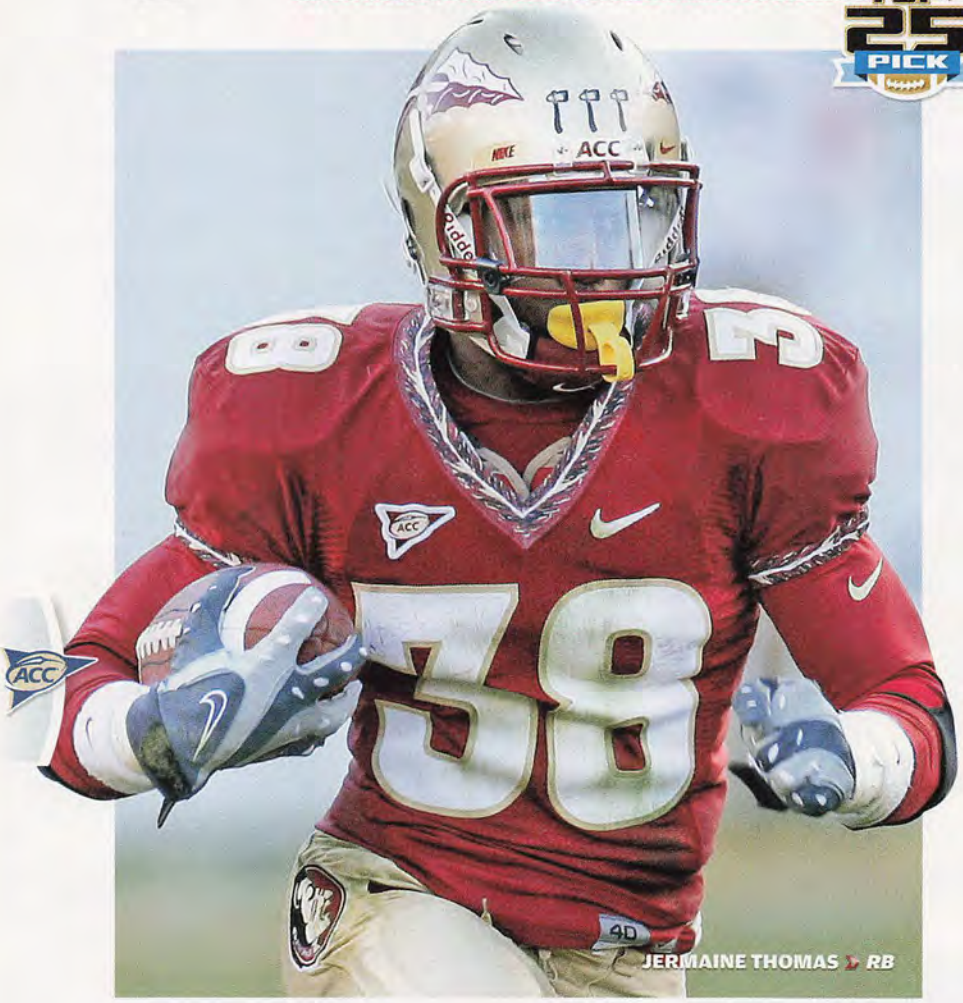
ACC ATLANTIC PRESEASON RANK

1 FLORIDA STATE SEMINOLES

TOP 25 PICK



JERMAINE THOMAS » RB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.7	Miami (FL)	41-39
The Seminoles open against their in-state rivals on ESPN. A victory would provide momentum through three nonconference games into the next ACC matchup at Boston College.		
S.12	Jacksonville State	
S.19	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S.26	South Florida	
0.3	@BOSTON COLLEGE	17-27
0.10	Georgia Tech	28-31
0.22	@NORTH CAROLINA	
0.31	N.C. State	26-17
N.7	@CLEMSON	41-27
N.14	@WAKE FOREST	3-12
N.21	Maryland	37-3
N.28	@FLORIDA	15-45

BOWL PROJECTION
» GATOR BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Offense should be potent if QB Christian Ponder performs.
» Major rebuilding job on defense.

It might be too much to ask a Florida State program on probation to make it back to its former glory. But the Seminoles could do the ACC a huge favor by making it as far as Tampa.

When Virginia Tech played Boston College in a second straight conference title matchup last December, fewer than 30,000 fans passed through the turnstiles of Tampa's Raymond James Stadium. The conference, apparently a glutton for punishment, will hold the 2009 title game in Tampa again before moving it to Charlotte for 2010 and 2011.

There are two reasons to hope attendance will improve at this ACC championship. One is Miami. The other is Florida State.

The dream matchup for the conference office would come true if both schools won their divisions. But the strongest and most loyal fans belong to the Seminoles. Apparently not even back-to-back 7-6 seasons in 2006-07 and an academic scandal that resulted in four years of probation and the loss of six scholarships over three seasons can douse the fires of passion among FSU fans.

Around 36,000 showed up at Doak Campbell Stadium for the spring game in April. That's more than last year's ACC Championship Game.

The NCAA ruled that the 14 wins during the 2006 and 2007 seasons be vacated, though FSU has appealed that portion of the sanctions. With the wins, coach Bobby Bowden will enter his 34th season at FSU with 382 career victories, or one fewer than all-time leader Joe Paterno of Penn State. Without them, he's 15 back.

The Seminoles, even after their early home loss to Wake Forest, were back in contention for an ACC title last year before losing 27-17 at home to Boston College on Nov. 15. They finished 9-4, hardly cause for celebration at a school with two national titles and 12 ACC championships, but a significant improvement from the previous two years.

Defensive coordinator Mickey Andrews will have a young defense with only three starters—nose guard Kendrick Stewart, safety Jamie Robinson and cornerback Patrick Robinson—returning from a unit that finished third in the ACC in total defense and fifth in scoring defense in 2008.

But if quarterback Christian Ponder can improve on his sophomore season (when he finished sixth in the conference in pass efficiency), and if offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher can restock a receiving corps that lost Greg Carr and

DALE ZANINE / US PRESSWIRE

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Christian Ponder

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	115.00	318-177-13	55.7	2006	14	154.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jermaine Thomas	12	69	482	7.0	3	40.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Taiwan Easterling	12	30	322	10.7	1	26.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Dekoda Watson	10	28	18	46

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Kevin McNeil	12	4	33

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Jamie Robinson	1	0	0.0	0
Patrick Robinson	1	0	0.0	0
Dekoda Watson	1	4	4.0	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
ACC: 5-3
(beat Wisconsin in the Champs Sports Bowl, 24-21)

Coach: Bobby Bowden
34th year (309-91-4)
Career Record: 382-123-4
Offensive coordinator:
Jimbo Fisher (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Mickey Andrews (26th year)

Stadium: Doak S. Campbell Stadium (82,300)
Tickets: 850-644-1830
Site: Tallahassee, Fla.
Official athletic Web site:
www.seminoles.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	7	Christian Ponder (6-2, 217, Jr.)
	3	EJ Manuel (6-4, 223, Fr.)
FB	35	Marcus Sims (6-0, 230, Sr.)
	42	Seddrick Holloway (5-10, 265, Sr.)
RB	38	Jermaine Thomas (6-1, 190 So.)
	33	Carlton Jones (5-11, 203, So.)
LOT	67	Andrew Datko (6-6, 283, So.)
	73	Rhonne Sanderson (6-4, 288, So.)
LOG	62	Rodney Hudson (6-2, 285, Jr.)
	73	Rhonne Sanderson (6-4, 288, So.)
C	60	Ryan McMahon (6-3, 282, Jr.)
	63	AJ Ganguzza (6-3, 268, So.)
ROG	79	David Spurlock (6-5, 285, So.)
	75	Will Furlong (6-5, 276, So.)
ROT	77	Zebrie Sanders (6-5, 288, So.)
	70	Antwane Greenlee (6-6, 293, So.)
TE	81	Caz Piurowski (6-7, 271, Sr.)
	85	Ja'Baris Little (6-4, 226, So.)
WR	9	Richard Goodman (6-0, 191, r-Sr.)
	86	Rod Owens (6-0, 183, Sr.)
WR	83	Bert Reed (5-11, 165, So.)
	80	Jarmon Fortson (6-3, 223, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	95	Kevin McNeil (6-2, 257, Sr.)
	55	Jamar Jackson (6-4, 240, So.)
LDT	94	Justin Mincey (6-5, 272, Sr.)
	90	Moses McCray (6-2, 298, So.)
RDT	56	Kendrick Stewart (6-2, 271, Sr.)
	93	Everette Dawkins (6-2, 258, So.)
RDE	98	Markus White (6-4, 261, Sr.)
	96	Toshmon Stevens (6-5, 228, So.)
SLB	36	Dekoda Watson (6-2, 226, Sr.)
	12	Nigel Carr (6-3, 230, So.)
MLB	41	Kendall Smith (6-1, 230, Jr.)
	11	Vince Williams (6-0, 245, So.)
WLB	13	Nigel Bradham (6-2, 235, So.)
	44	Maurice Harris (6-0, 212, So.)
LCB	15	Ochucko Jenije (5-10, 188, Jr.)
	28	Dionte Allen (5-11, 172, So.)
RCB	21	Patrick Robinson (5-11, 194, Sr.)
	26	AJ Alexander (5-11, 180, Fr.)
FS	20	Jamie Robinson (6-2, 188, Sr.)
	27	Terrance Parks (6-1, 196, So.)
SS	22	Korey Mangum (6-0, 202, Sr.)
	27	Terrance Parks (6-1, 196, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	41	James Esco (6-1, 205, So.)
P	45	Shawn Powell (6-5, 217, So.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	FSU	OPP
SCORING	434	262
Points Per Game	33.4	20.2
FIRST DOWNS	265	214
Rushing	131	89
Passing	113	90
Penalty	21	35
RUSHING YARDAGE	2328	1723
Yards gained rushing	2716	2213
Yards lost rushing	388	490
Rushing Attempts	483	450
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.8
Average Per Game	179.1	132.5
TDs Rushing	27	12
PASSING YARDAGE	2506	2111
Att-Comp-Int	387-211-16	342-175-9
Average Per Pass	6.5	6.2
Average Per Catch	11.9	12.1
Average Per Game	192.8	162.4
TDs Passing	18	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	4834	3834
Total Plays	870	792
Average Per Play	5.6	4.8
Average Per Game	371.8	294.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	53-1280	1431
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	24-209	16-138
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	9-56	16-287

TEAM STATISTICS	FSU	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	24.2	20.2
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.7	8.6
INT RETURN AVG.	6.2	17.9
FUMBLES-LOST	23-10	24-17
PENALTIES-YARDS	102-937	76-593
Average Per Game	72.1	45.6
PUNTS-YARDS	41-1649	65-2426
Average Per Punt	40.2	37.3
Net punt average	36.4	32.0
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:36	28:20
3RD-DOWN CONV.	79/172	43/167
3rd-Down Pct.	46%	26%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/12	10/23
4th-Down Pct.	33%	43%
SACKS BY-YARDS	39-288	26-187
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	51	29
FG-ATTEMPTS	25-30	19-26
PAT-ATTEMPTS	47-50	29-29
ATTENDANCE	545773	227577
Games/Avg Per Game	7/77968	4/56894
Neutral Site Games	0	2/49704

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Florida State	65	146	106	117	434
Opponent	71	58	61	72	262

Preston Parker, then the offense might be able to shoulder the load.

The Seminoles' strength appears to be a starting offensive line that returns intact sans any seniors. Three of them (tackles Andrew Datko and Zebrie Sanders and guard David Spurlock) are sophomores; center Ryan McMahon and guard Rodney Hudson are juniors.

Antone Smith, who ranked 10th in the ACC with 60.9 yards a game as a senior, will have to be replaced at running back. The two leading candidates are sophomores Jermaine Thomas and Carlton Jones. Thomas averaged seven yards a carry last season, while Jones contributed 55 yards and a touchdown on just four carries against Wisconsin in the Champs Sports Bowl.

With Taiwan Easterling (30 receptions) out of spring practice with a ruptured Achilles, Fisher opened the position to competition. Bert Reed (23) and Rod Owens (15) are back, although Owens was suspended indefinitely after being charged with DUI in April. Senior Richard Goodman caught 20 passes in 2007 before sitting out last year as a redshirt.

The big losses on defense were Everette Brown, a first-team All-ACC tackle who left early to enter the NFL draft, and safety Myron Rolle, a second-team All-ACC safety who passed up his senior year to accept the Rhodes Scholarship and attend Oxford University in England.

Brown will be hard to replace, but Markus White (5.5 tackles for loss) will try, as he is a former National Junior College Player of the Year.

Linebackers coach Chuck Amato will miss Derek Nicholson and Toddrick Verdell, the Seminoles' top two tacklers last season. Dekoda Watson, who missed the spring recovering from elbow surgery, had inquired about becoming a professional, but vowed to come back this season. And the Seminoles will need him.

They also must find someone to handle the punting and kicking assignments with the departure of Graham Gano, last year's Lou Groza Award winner. A third-team All-American, Gano led the nation with 2.18 field goals per game and averaged 42.7 yards on 22 punts after beating Shawn Powell out midway through last season.

Powell is expected to regain his position at punter. Sophomore James Esco is the favorite in a three-way race for the placekicking job.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Seminoles put together the top class in the ACC, and there is star power across the board.

Florida State brought in its fair share of the best prospects from the Sunshine State. They also reached into other states like Ohio, Texas, Mississippi and South Carolina.

Five-star defensive tackle **Jacobbi McDaniel** will arrive on campus as perhaps the most highly touted recruit for FSU. Though he lacks size, his explosiveness makes him difficult to block. Fellow five-star cornerback **Greg Reid** is an electrifying playmaker in the secondary. Reid will be joined in the defensive backfield by **Jajaun Harley**, who has plenty of speed.

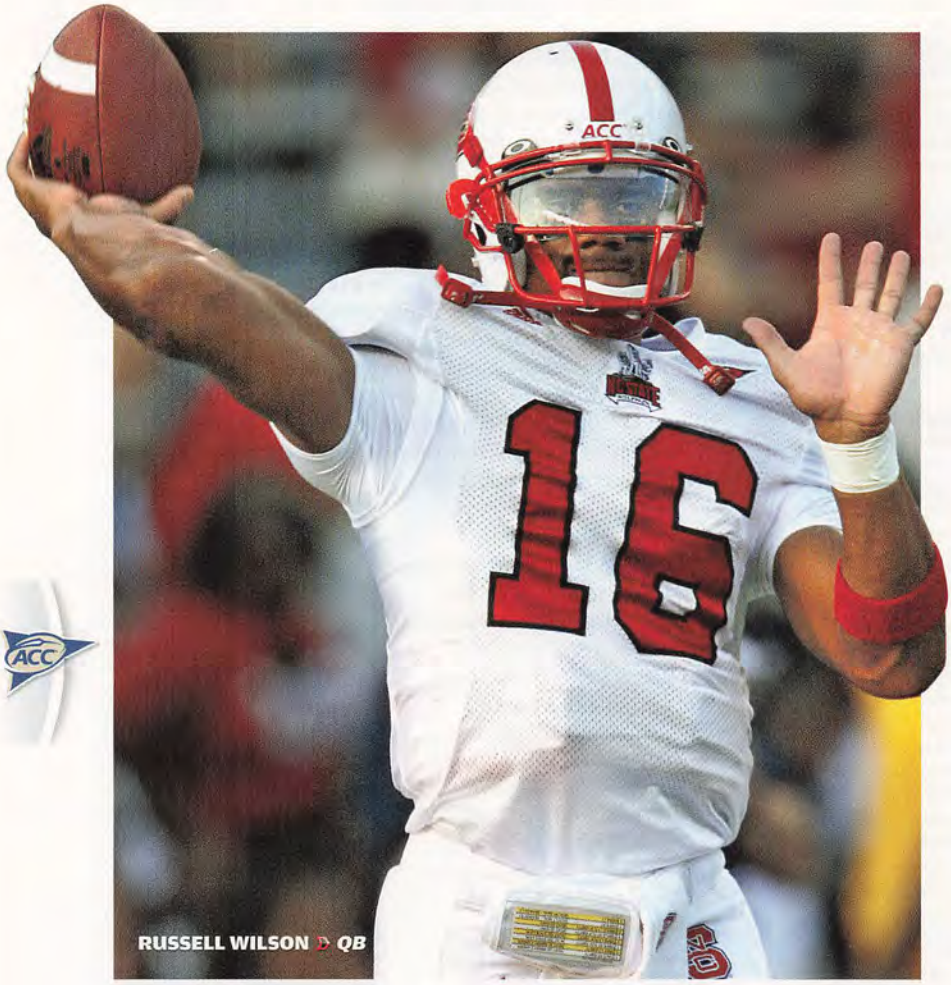
The offense also received a talent boost. Four-star running backs **Lonnie Pryor** and **Chris Thompson** will solidify that position in the future. **Willie Haulstead** and **Rodney Smith** have the size to present huge matchup problems at wide receiver.

—Mike Farrell, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *JERMAINE THOMAS, RB*

Thomas averaged seven yards per carry last year as a backup to Antone Smith. With Smith gone, Thomas will get more carries behind a talented offensive line.

2 N.C. STATE WOLFPACK



RUSSELL WILSON » QB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.3	South Carolina	0-34
S.12	Murray State	
S.19	Gardner-Webb	
S.26	Pittsburgh	

GAME TO WATCH

0.3 @WAKE FOREST 21-17

N.C. State knocked off the Deacons last season in Raleigh. Two in a row would give the Wolfpack a leg up in the Atlantic Division race.

0.10	Duke	27-17
0.17	@BOSTON COLLEGE	31-38
0.31	@FLORIDA STATE	17-26
N.7	Maryland	24-27
N.14	Clemson	9-27
N.21	@VIRGINIA TECH	
N.28	North Carolina	41-10

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» Russell Wilson is the ACC's best quarterback.

» Coach Tom O'Brien will build on last season's turnaround.

Give a good college coach a good quarterback and good things will happen.

Tom O'Brien has proved he can coach, averaging 7.6 victories over his 10 seasons at Boston College. And midway through his second year at N.C. State, he had the best quarterback in the ACC.

A series of injuries that hindered redshirt freshman Russell Wilson fully cleared and he showed his talent last year. The Wolfpack, after losing six of its first eight games in '08, used the off week of Nov. 1 to bond as a team. Then the unit, led by Wilson's passing and running, won its final four regular-season games to earn an invitation to play Rutgers in the Papajohns.com Bowl.

But for all his laurels, which included becoming the first freshman to be named a first-team All-ACC quarterback, Wilson has been guaranteed nothing for 2009. He rehabbed his knee in time for spring practices, but split time as an infielder for the Wolfpack baseball team. And O'Brien made it clear that Wilson would have beat out the competition—redshirt freshman Mike Glennon—to start this season.

"Everybody competes," O'Brien says. "They don't own the jersey. N.C. State owns the jersey."

Glennon is expected to be a good player. And he'll have to be if he's going to unseat Wilson, who completed 150 passes for 1,955 yards and carried 116 times for 388 yards and four touchdowns.

But Wilson's most impressive statistic was his 17 touchdown passes with only one interception. He will enter the 2009 campaign having thrown 249 consecutive passes without an interception—just 21 shy of the ACC record Drew Weatherford of Florida State set in 2007.

Coaches are usually credited with changing a team's fortunes from one season to the next. But more often than not, a team evolves during a season and they never regress.

The Wolfpack arrived during that off week, having lost four in a row. The team that ran the table against in-state rivals Duke, Wake Forest and North Carolina and then knocked off Miami to become bowl-eligible bore little resemblance to the one South Florida buried 41-10 in Raleigh early in 2008.

Seven players will return to a defense that held Duke, Wake Forest and North Carolina all to 17 points or fewer. The ringleaders are linebackers Nate Irving and Ray Michel and end Willie Young.

The experienced players up front are tackle Alan-Michael Cash, who started

BOB LEVERONE / SN

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Russell Wilson	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	11	133.93	275-150-1	54.5	1955	17	177.7

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jamelle Eugene	10	95	442	4.7	2	44.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Owen Spencer	13	31	691	22.3	5	53.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Ray Michel	13	39	46	85

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Willie Young	13	6	51

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Nate Irving	4	83	20.8	1

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 6-7
ACC: 4-4
(lost to Rutgers in the Papajohns.com Bowl, 29-23)

Coach: Tom O'Brien
3rd year (11-14)
Career record: 86-59
Offensive coordinator:
Dana Bible (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Mike Archer (3rd year)

Stadium: Carter-Finley Stadium (60,000)
Tickets: 800-310-PACK
Site: Raleigh, N.C.
Official athletic Web site:
www.gopack.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	16	Russell Wilson (5-11, 191, So.)
	8	Mike Glennon (6-6, 195, Fr.)
FB	47	Taylor Gentry (6-2, 215, So.)
	48	Colby Jackson (6-2, 225, Fr.)
RB	22	Toney Baker (5-10, 225, Sr.)
	29	Jamelle Eugene (5-10, 195, Sr.)
LOT	70	Jake Vermiglio (6-5, 315, Jr.)
		Sam Jones (6-7, 295, Fr.)
LOG	73	Julian Williams (6-5, 305, Sr.)
	64	Andrew Wallace (6-5, 280, Fr.)
C	58	Ted Larsen (6-2, 295, Sr.)
	54	Henry Lawson (6-3, 289, So.)
ROG	74	Andy Barbee (6-3, 310, Sr.)
	72	Zach Allen (6-3, 300, Fr.)
ROT	50	Jeraill McCuller (6-7, 330, Sr.)
	79	R.J. Mattes (6-6, 295, Fr.)
TE	84	George Bryan (6-5, 265, So.)
	87	Mario Carter (6-4, 230, Fr.)
WR	5	Jarvis Williams (6-4, 205, Jr.)
	6	T.J. Graham (6-0, 180, So.)
WR	13	Owen Spencer (6-3, 180, Jr.)
	85	Steven Howard (6-2, 190, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	98	Shea McKeen (6-5, 250, Sr.)
	11	Audi Augustin (6-2, 253, Jr.)
LDT	95	LeRoy Burgess (6-1, 300, Sr.)
	52	J.R. Sweezy (6-5, 255, So.)
RDT	49	Alan-Michael Cash (6-1, 286, Sr.)
		Nathan Mageo (6-3, 285, Jr.)
RDE	97	Willie Young (6-5, 243, Sr.)
	99	Jeff Rieskamp (6-3, 235, So.)
SLB	41	Dwayne Maddox (6-2, 225, So.)
	35	Terrell Manning (6-3, 220, Fr.)
MLB	44	Ray Michel (6-0, 224, Sr.)
	7	Sterling Lucas (6-2, 220, So.)
WLB	56	Nate Irving (6-1, 225, Jr.)
	42	Audie Cole (6-5, 229, So.)
LCB	21	DeAndre Morgan (5-10, 170, Jr.)
	33	Koyal George (5-11, 175, Sr.)
RCB	20	Dominique Ellis (5-11, 190, So.)
	46	C.J. Wilson (5-11, 171, Fr.)
FS	28	Justin Byers (6-0, 185, So.)
	32	Jimmaul Simmons (6-2, 200, So.)
SS	19	Clem Johnson (6-0, 190, Sr.)
	27	Earl Wolff (6-0, 190, Fr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	36	Josh Czajkowski (5-9, 184, Jr.)
P	38	Jeff Ruiz (6-2, 185, Sr.)

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	NCSU	OPP
SCORING	305	342
Points Per Game	23.5	26.3
FIRST DOWNS	223	278
Rushing	98	114
Passing	110	149
Penalty	15	15
RUSHING YARDAGE	1601	1849
Yards gained rushing	2023	2121
Yards lost rushing	422	272
Rushing Attempts	442	442
Average Per Rush	3.6	4.2
Average Per Game	123.2	142.2
TDs Rushing	14	17
PASSING YARDAGE	2678	3233
Att-Comp-Int	392-197-14	447-278-18
Average Per Pass	6.8	7.2
Average Per Catch	13.6	11.6
Average Per Game	206	248.7
TDs Passing	20	20
TOTAL OFFENSE	4279	5082
Total Plays	834	889
Average Per Play	5.1	5.7
Average Per Game	329.2	390.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	60-1387	57-1261
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	20-166	22-128
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	18-197	14-244

TEAM STATISTICS	NCSU	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	23.1	22.1
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.3	5.8
INT RETURN AVG.	10.9	17.4
FUMBLES-LOST	28-6	19-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	71-550	64-591
Average Per Game	42.3	45.5
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2369	51-2214
Average Per Punt	38.2	43.4
Net punt average	35.2	37.4
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:39	30:21
3RD-DOWN CONV.	68/179	69/174
3rd-Down Pct.	0.38	40%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	38518	12/21
4th-Down Pct.	0.38	57%
SACKS BY-YARDS	23-144	29-197
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	37	39
FG-ATTEMPTS	16-19	22-25
PAT-ATTEMPTS	33-34	38-39
ATTENDANCE	396658	294098
Games/Avg Per Game	7/56665	5/58820
Neutral Site Games		1/38582

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
N.C. State	77	86	62	74	6	305
Opponent	79	77	75	111	0	342

10 games last season, and defensive end Shea McKeen, who started nine. O'Brien will retool his secondary around cornerback DeAndre Morgan, who started 10 games, and safety Justin Byers, who started eight.

The Wolfpack improved dramatically on defense last season, especially against the run. N.C. State's first eight opponents averaged 170.1 yards rushing a game; its final five averaged just 97.6.

Irving's return from an ankle injury contributed to the turnaround, but some of the younger players on the defense also grew into their positions. If N.C. State's defense carries its 2008 momentum into this season, the Wolfpack could shake up the conference.

Wilson, who is dangerous in the open field, is not the ACC's most accurate passer, but he was good enough last season to lead the conference with a passing-efficiency rating of 133.9. And he should have an improved receiving corps, with Owen Spencer (31 catches, 691 yards), Jarvis Williams (26, 432) and T.J. Graham (16, 251) all back and more experienced.

O'Brien shuffled his running backs last season and is likely to do so again. Jamelle Eugene (442 rushing yards, 26 catches) missed spring practice to recover from shoulder surgery, and his place was filled by Toney Baker, who is on the comeback trail after missing the last two seasons with knee injuries.

Others battling for playing time are redshirt freshman Brandon Barnes and true freshman James Washington, who enrolled last January after graduating from Boone High School in Orlando.

Three starters return on the offensive line in center Ted Larsen and tackles Jeraill McCuller and Jake Vermiglio.

The offense was good enough to rank fifth in the ACC last season with 329.2 yards per game, and was efficient when it mattered most. N.C. State tied for eighth nationally in red-zone offensive efficiency, scoring 91 percent of the time it made a first down inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

That's the sign of an offensive line that's able to produce holes and a quarterback capable of taking advantage of them.

RECRUITING REPORT

Under the previous coaching regime, Wolfpack fans had become accustomed to raiding the state of Florida on an annual basis. While they will still look to Florida like any other school in the region, Tom O'Brien and his staff are busy building new pipelines to different states.

N.C. State's 27 prospects in the Class of 2009 hail from 11 states. They come from as far west as New Mexico and as far north as Massachusetts. Five defensive tackles form the nucleus of this group.

Tyson Chandler is a load at 6-6 and 344 pounds, and he could play on either the offensive or defensive line. **Raynard Randolph** is another big body who should be a force at defensive tackle or offensive guard.

There's plenty of skill-position talent in this class as well. Wide receivers **Quintin Payton** and **Bryan Underwood** have the speed to get on the field early, and four-star cornerback **Jarvis Byrd** comes to Raleigh from Florida as the most highly touted prospect in the class.

In all, the 'Pack did a very nice job considering how well Butch Davis and archrival North Carolina fared with in-state recruits.

—Mike Farrell, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *T.J. GRAHAM, WR*

After setting the school record for the most kickoff-return yards in a single game (100), Graham should have a breakout season at wide receiver. He caught 16 passes for 251 yards last season.

3 WAKE FOREST DEMON DEACONS

Wake Forest has plenty of reasons to slide from ACC contention back into the lower echelons of the conference. One is named Aaron Curry. Alphonso Smith, Chip Vaughn and Stanley Arnoux are others. All were high on the list of best defensive players to ever play their positions at Wake Forest, and all were seniors who ended their college careers in '08.

Seven starters were lost from a defense that helped Wake finish 8-5 and come within one game of returning to the ACC championship for the second time in three seasons. Also, this class took the Deacons to their third straight bowl game.

For the Deacons to make it four bowl trips in a row and contend for the ACC title again, they'll depend on some untested players. But most of all, it will require a step forward by an offense that sulked in the shadows of the defense last season.

However, nine offensive players who started in the EagleBank Bowl are back, including quarterback Riley Skinner.

The backfield returns intact, though Kevin Harris shook up the pecking order in the EagleBank Bowl. Harris got a crack at running back when injuries slowed Brandon Pendergrass and Josh Adams, the 2007 ACC Rookie of the Year.

Senior Demir Boldin (ACC-best 81 catches in '08) is gone, but receivers Marshall Williams, Jordan Williams, Devon Brown, Danny Dembry, Terence Davis and Chris Givens are all ready.

For two years in a row, the offensive line has closed the season strong but struggled through injuries and linemen not playing to their potential.

For Wake Forest to stand out this season, the offensive line will have to be good from the start. And it should be, given the return of eight players—Jeff Griffin, Joe Birdsong, Chris DeGeare, Russell Nenon, Barrett McMillin, Trey Bailey, Joe Looney and Doug Weaver.

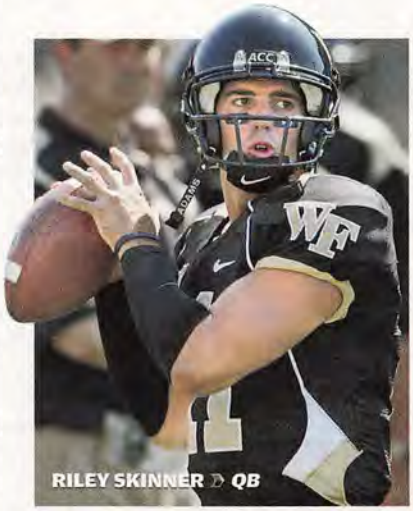
The Deacons did take a hit on defense, losing linebackers Curry, Arnoux and Chantz McClinic, safeties Vaughn and Kevin Patterson, cornerback Smith and end Matt Robinson.

It may prove that the Deacons can't play the kind of defense required for a winning season in the ACC, but the coaching staff is confident the recruiting has been strong enough over the past few years that replacements are on hand.

Brad Lambert, the defensive coordinator, says the line is a great place to start a rebuilding project. To build around, he has two of the ACC's best defensive tackles in Boo Robinson and John Russell.

All three starters at linebacker—Matt Woodlief in the middle and Hunter Haynes and Jonathan Jones on the outside—played enough last season to give Lambert a good idea of what to expect from this corp.

The secondary is also green, though cornerback Brandon Ghee has started 21 games in his career. Josh Bush, who started two games last year, is expected to succeed Smith at the other corner, and Alex Frye and Cyhl Quarles will get their chances at safety.



RILEY SKINNER ▷ QB

THE NEXT BIG THING

KYLE WILBER, DE

Wilber made an impression in his first college game, running down Baylor's speedy QB Robert Griffin. He has the wheels to be a force in the ACC.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
ACC: 4-4
(beat Navy in the EagleBank Bowl, 29-19)

Coach: Jim Grobe
9th year (54-44)
Career record: 87-77-1
Offensive coordinator:
Steed Lobotzke (7th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Brad Lambert (2nd year)

Stadium: BB&T Field (31,500)
Tickets: 888-758-DEAC
Site: Winston-Salem, N.C.
Official athletic Web site:
www.wakeforestsports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Baylor	41-13
S.12	Stanford	
S.19	Elon	
S.26	@BOSTON COLLEGE	21-24
O.3	N.C. State	17-21
O.10	Maryland	0-26
O.17	@CLEMSON	12-7
O.24	@NAVY	17-24
O.31	Miami (FL)	10-16
N.7	@GEORGIA TECH	

GAME TO WATCH

N.14 Florida State 12-3

Wake Forest have beaten the Seminoles three straight years. If they make it a fourth, the Deacons should be in the thick of the conference title race again.

N.28	@DUKE	33-30 (OT)

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» EMERALD BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Quarterback Riley Skinner leads an experienced offense.
» The defense must rebuild.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	11	Riley Skinner (6-1, 210, Sr.)
FB	44	Mike Rinfrette (6-3, 260, Sr.)
RB	23	Kevin Harris (6-1, 225, Sr.)
LOT	70	Chris DeGeare (6-4, 335, Sr.)
LOG	61	Barrett McMillin (6-3, 290, Sr.)
C	72	Russell Nenon (6-4, 295, Jr.)
ROG	64	Jeff Griffin (6-3, 290, Sr.)
ROT	76	Joe Birdsong (6-4, 290, Sr.)
TE	85	Ben Wooster (6-5, 235, Sr.)
WR	8	Marshall Williams (6-1, 185, Jr.)
WR	3	Devon Brown (5-9, 185, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	55	Tristan Dorty (6-2, 250, So.)
LDT	96	Boo Robinson (6-2, 295, Sr.)
RDT	51	John Russell (6-4, 280, Sr.)
RDE	97	Kyle Wilber (6-5, 230, So.)
SLB	26	Jonathan Jones (6-3, 240, Sr.)
MLB	46	Matt Woodlief (5-11, 254, Jr.)
WLB	56	Hunter Haynes (6-2, 240, Jr.)
LCB	25	Josh Bush (5-11, 195, So.)
RCB	17	Brandon Ghee (6-0, 191, Sr.)
FS	21	Alex Frye (6-3, 195, Jr.)
SS	28	Cyhl Quarles (6-3, 205, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	14	Shane Popham (5-11, 190, So.)
P	14	Shane Popham (5-11, 190, So.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
John Gallagher
DT, 6-4, 252
Gallagher, though undersized, has the tools to be a big-time player after a redshirt year in 2008.

2
Daniel Mack
LB, 6-0, 196
Mack is also undersized for his position. The prospect has good range, however, and tackles well.

3
Michael Campanaro
ATH, 5-10, 173
Campanaro has the versatility coaches love. He could line up in the slot or on defense.

4
Quan Rucker
WR, 6-0, 182
Rucker had offers from South Carolina, Clemson, N.C. State and others, but he chose Wake Forest instead.

5
Justin Jackson
LB, 6-1, 212
Jackson recorded an eye-popping 191 tackles, 18 tackles for loss and eight sacks as a senior.

BOB LEVERONE / SN

CLEMSON TIGERS 4

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Middle Tennessee	
S.10	@GEORGIA TECH	17-21
S.19	Boston College	27-21
S.26	TCU	
O.3	@MARYLAND	17-20
GAME TO WATCH		
0.17	**Wake Forest**	**7-12**
The Tigers have a great shot of winning their first two division games at home against Boston College and at Maryland. If Clemson beats Wake Forest, it should be in the ACC hunt.		
0.24	@MIAMI (FL)	
0.31	Coastal Carolina	
N.7	Florida State	27-41
N.14	@N.C. STATE	27-9
N.21	Virginia	13-3
N.28	@SOUTH CAROLINA	31-14

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» No shortage of talent in Tigertown.

» Is coach Dabo Swinney the right man for the job?

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	3	Willy Korn (6-2, 220, So.)
FB	5	Rendrick Taylor (6-2, 255, Sr.)
RB	28	C.J. Spiller (5-11, 195, Sr.)
LOT	61	Chris Hairston (6-6, 320, Jr.)
LOG	65	Thomas Austin (6-3, 315, Sr.)
C	62	Mason Cloy (6-3, 310, So.)
ROG	74	Antoine McClain (6-5, 305, So.)
ROT	72	Landon Walker (6-5, 300, So.)
TE	86	Michael Palmer (6-5, 250, Sr.)
WR	6	Jacoby Ford (5-10, 185, Jr.)
WR	87	Terrance Ashe (6-2, 190, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	93	Da'Quan Bowers (6-4, 275, So.)
LDT	99	Jarvis Jenkins (6-4, 305, Jr.)
RDT	98	Brandon Thompson (6-2, 315, So.)
RDE	24	Kevin Alexander (6-3, 255, Sr.)
SLB	44	Scotty Cooper (6-1, 215, Jr.)
MLB	20	Brandon Maye (6-2, 225, So.)
WLB	33	Kavell Conner (6-1, 225, Sr.)
LCB	38	Chris Chancellor (5-10, 165, Sr.)
RCB	18	Crezdon Butler (6-0, 185, Sr.)
FS	27	Sadat Chambers (5-11, 190, Sr.)
SS	2	DeAndre McDaniel (6-1, 200, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	19	Richard Jackson (5-11, 190, Jr.)
P	19	Richard Jackson (5-11, 190, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
ACC: 4-4
(lost to Nebraska in the Gator Bowl, 26-21)

Coach: Dabo Swinney, 2nd year (4-3)
Career record: 4-3
Offensive coordinator: Billy Napier (2nd year)
Defensive coordinators: Ron West (1st year) Kevin Steele (1st year)

Stadium: Clemson Memorial Stadium (80,301)
Tickets: 864-656-2118
Site: Clemson, S.C.
Official athletic Web site: www.clemsontigers.com

GEOFF BURKE / US PRESSWIRE

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Coach Dabo Swinney said he would continue a tradition he started of having the Tigers parade 200 yards through game-day fans on their way from the bus to the locker room at Memorial Stadium.

If this is true, Swinney had better win. Otherwise, he could find himself coaching his team through a much older game called "running the gauntlet."

Football reigns supreme in Clemson, but only if the Tigers are winning. When they lose, things turn bad.

After the team that was predicted to win the ACC lost three of its first six games, the scene got so ugly that coach Tommy Bowden stepped down under extreme duress.

The housecleaning didn't end there. Swinney, the assistant head coach who took over for Bowden, dismissed offensive coordinator Rob Spence and replaced him with Billy Napier, the tight ends coach. Before the Tigers lost to Nebraska in the Gator Bowl to finish 7-6, defensive coordinator Vic Koenning announced his departure.

Also gone are wide receiver Aaron Kelly, the ACC's all-time leader (232) in receptions, and running back James Davis (3,881 career rushing yards). Quarterback Cullen Harper departed as well.

But Clemson still has talent.

C.J. Spiller, after sharing the spotlight for two seasons with Davis, now becomes the show at running back. He already has 2,335 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns.

The line also looks promising with five regulars back. Senior Thomas Austin, who has started 25 games at either guard or center, was named a second-team All-ACC center last season but was listed on Clemson's spring depth chart at guard. If he settles in, then Mason Cloy, a Freshman All-American last season, may take over at center.

With Kelly gone, senior Jacoby Ford becomes Clemson's prime receiving target. Ford caught 55 passes last season for 710 yards and four scores.

The wide-receiver rotation is expected to showcase Xavier Dye, Terrance Ashe and Marquan Jones, all of whom are fast and talented but remain untested.

If the Tigers can find a quarterback, they should be potent. Swinney and Napier will choose from among Willy Korn, Kyle Parker and Michael Wade.

Korn caused a buzz by signing with Clemson after being named Player of the Year in South Carolina as both a prep junior and senior. He played two games in 2007, but missed the rest of the season with a shoulder injury. Parker, from Jacksonville, Fla., also plays for the Clemson baseball team and was good enough to be named a first-team All-ACC center fielder as a freshman in 2008. And Wade is a converted safety who holds for placekicks.

The Tigers will be loaded on defense with eight starters back, including cornerbacks Chris Chancellor and Crezdon Butler. Returning linebackers Kavell Conner and Brandon Maye both started at least eight games last year.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Malliciah Goodman
DE, 6-4, 255
The top-ranked recruit in South Carolina, Goodman is a specimen with the athleticism of a smaller prospect.

2 Tajh Boyd
QB, 6-1, 208
Boyd feels comfortable in the pocket but can also pick up rushing yards when things break down during a play.

3 Bryce McNeal
WR, 6-2, 170
McNeal was the top-ranked prospect in Minnesota, and chose Clemson for its offense. He is a big-time addition.

4 Roderick McDowell
RB, 5-10, 175
McDowell has track speed, and the coaches also love his ability to catch the ball out of the backfield.

5 Brandon Thomas
OT, 6-4, 280
An offensive tackle with athleticism, Thomas runs a sub-4.8-second 40-yard dash and will be effective in the running game.

THE NEXT BIG THING

BRANDON MAYE, LB

Named first-team All-Freshman by the Football Writers of America, Maye delivered 87 tackles last season, the most by a Clemson freshman since Anthony Simmons in 1995.

5 MARYLAND TERRAPINS

If offense fills the seats while defense wins championships, then Maryland should have plenty of people watching it come up short of the ACC Championship Game in 2009.

No ACC team lost more players to spent eligibility than Maryland, which will have to replace seven starters of defense and five on offense. But even with the defection of star receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey to the NFL (as the No. 7 overall pick), the offense has some key players back.

Last season, the Terps' offense ranked third in the ACC with 350.7 yards per game. If coordinator James Franklin can retool a line that lost three starters, Maryland will have a chance to produce lots of offense.

Tailback Da'Rel Scott made a splash last season as a sophomore, rushing for 1,133 yards and making first-team All-ACC. And Chris Turner finally won the quarterback position in 2008, ranking third in the conference with 193.5 passing yards a game.

The Terps' backfield should be one of the ACC's best, with fullback Cory Jackson and Davin Meggett joining Scott and Turner. Jackson, who missed spring drills recovering from knee surgery, is a menacing blocker who caught 12 passes last season.

The departure of Heyward-Bey turns the spotlight to Torrey Smith, a sophomore wideout who set the ACC's single-season record on kickoff returns (1,089 yards).

And sophomore Ronnie Tyler gave Franklin reason to feel better about his receiving corps after catching five passes for 55 yards and a touchdown in the Terps' victory over Nevada in the Humanitarian Bowl.

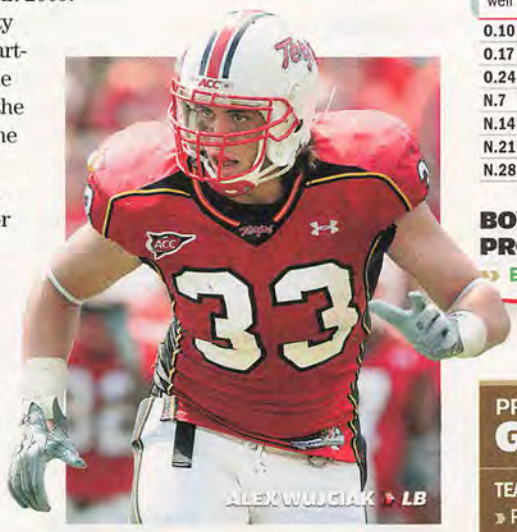
Speed is not a problem with the return of receivers Emani Lee-Odai and LaQuan Williams. However, Franklin needs to replace three starters on the offensive line, though he does have Bruce Campbell and Phil Costa to rebuild around.

Campbell is a tackle who started the final seven games last year, while Costa has started 19 games in his career as a guard but is listed as the starting center this year. Also starting on the line will be Lamar Young at left guard, Justin Lewis at right guard and Paul Pinegar at right tackle.

Attempting to get the defense back on track is former Massachusetts head coach Don Brown, who was hired to replace Chris Cosh as defensive coordinator. He has one starting linebacker returning in second-team All-ACC pick Alex Wujciak (133 tackles). Adrian Moten will start at strongside linebacker, with Demetrius Hartsfield on the weak side.

The Terps will play this season without starting defensive tackle Jeremy Navarre, who has exhausted his eligibility.

Brown will also have to replace end Mack Frost, end/linebacker Trey Covington, cornerback Kevin Barnes and safety Jeff Allen. So the key to '09 will be how soon ends Derek Drummond and Jared Harrell, tackles Dion Armstrong and Travis Ivey, safety Jamari McCollough and corner Nolan Carroll can contribute.


ALEX WUJCIAK ▸ LB

THE NEXT BIG THING

TORREY SMITH, WR

As a freshman last year, Smith set the ACC record for kick-return yardage in a single season. He will be a prime receiving threat this year with the departure of Darrius Heyward-Bey.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@CALIFORNIA	35-27
S.12	James Madison	
S.19	Middle Tennessee	14-24
S.26	Rutgers	

GAME TO WATCH

0.3 Clemson 20-17

The Terps travel to Wake Forest, N.C. State and FSU. If they can't beat Clemson at home in their ACC opener, it doesn't bode well for their conference title chances.

0.10	@WAKE FOREST	26-0
0.17	Virginia	0-31
0.24	@DUKE	
N.7	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	27-24
N.14	Virginia Tech	13-23
N.21	@FLORIDA STATE	3-37
N.28	Boston College	21-28

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» EAGLEBANK BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Potent offense if line can be retooled.
- Defense crippled by spent eligibility.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
ACC: 4-4
(beat Nevada in the Humanitarian Bowl, 42-35)

Coach: Ralph Friedgen
9th year (64-36)
Career record: 64-36
Offensive coordinator:
James Franklin (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Don Brown (1st year)

Stadium: Byrd Stadium (51,500)
Tickets: 301-314-7070
Site: College Park
Official athletic Web site:
www.umterps.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Chris Turner (6-4, 220, Sr.)
FB	38	Cory Jackson (6-1, 245, Sr.)
RB	23	Da'Rel Scott (5-11, 200, Jr.)
LOT	74	Bruce Campbell (6-7, 310, Jr.)
LOG	70	Lamar Young (6-4, 320, So.)
C	72	Phil Costa (6-3, 300, Sr.)
ROG	78	Justin Lewis (6-4, 320, Fr.)
ROT	71	Paul Pinegar (6-4, 280, Jr.)
TE	45	Tommy Galt (6-5, 260, Sr.)
WR	82	Torrey Smith (6-1, 200, So.)
WR	83	Emani Lee-Odai (6-2, 200, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	57	Jared Harrell (6-5, 265, Sr.)
LDT	90	Travis Ivey (6-4, 325, Sr.)
RDT	92	Dion Armstrong (6-1, 303, So.)
RDE	44	Derek Drummond (6-4, 250, So.)
SLB	54	Adrian Moten (6-2, 230, Jr.)
MLB	33	Alex Wujciak (6-3, 255, So.)
WLB	50	Demetrius Hartsfield (6-2, 230, Fr.)
LCB	6	Anthony Wiseman (5-10, 185, Sr.)
RCB	14	Nolan Carroll (6-1, 202, Sr.)
FS	1	Terrell Skinner (6-3, 214, Sr.)
SS	4	Jamari McCollough (5-11, 200, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	32	Nick Wallace (5-9, 195, Jr.)
P	35	Travis Baltz (6-2, 200, Jr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — DeOnte Arnett
DE, 6-4, 243
It would be hard to find a tougher prospect, and Arnett's football IQ makes him an intriguing player.

2 — Travis Hawkins
CB, 5-10, 181
Hawkins has a 340-pound bench press, and he is one of the few young corners out there who doesn't mind a lot of contact.

3 — D.J. Adams
RB, 5-10, 210
Adams has a strong build and is tough to bring down if only one defender is trying to tackle him.

4 — Peter White
OG, 6-4, 340
White has NFL written all over him. He moves well for a guard and his strength is through the roof.

5 — David Mackall
DE, 6-3, 240
Mackall could develop into an impressive pass rusher coming off the edge.

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

BOSTON COLLEGE EAGLES

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Northeastern	
S.12	Kent State	21-0
GAME TO WATCH		
S.19	**@CLEMSON**	**21-27**
First-year coach Frank Spaziani is looking to get off to a good start in the Eagles' first ACC game of the season. A win here would help gain valuable momentum and confidence.		
S.26	Wake Forest	24-21
0.3	Florida State	27-17
0.10	@VIRGINIA TECH	12-30
0.17	N.C. State	38-31
0.24	@NOTRE DAME	17-0
0.31	Central Michigan	
N.14	@VIRGINIA	
N.21	North Carolina	24-45
N.28	@MARYLAND	28-21

PROFESSOR'S GRADE D+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Eagles lack experience at key positions.
- Frank Spaziani is the team's third head coach in four seasons.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Dominique Davis (6-4, 198, So.)
RB	41	Montel Harris (5-10, 192, So.)
FB	36	James McCluskey (6-2, 246, Jr.)
LOT	74	Anthony Costanzo (6-7, 287, Jr.)
LOG	64	Nick Rossi (6-6, 290, Sr.)
C	78	Thomas Claiborne (6-3, 323, Jr.)
ROG	75	Nathan Richman (6-6, 284, So.)
ROT	66	Rich Lapham (6-8, 322, Jr.)
TE	87	Lars Anderson (6-3, 248, So.)
WR	18	Rich Gunnell (5-11, 196, Sr.)
WR	82	Justin Jarvis (6-5, 196, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	98	Alex Albright (6-5, 245, Jr.)
LDT	96	Kaleb Ramsey (6-3, 256, So.)
RDT	55	Damik Scafe (6-3, 293, Jr.)
RDE	86	Jim Ramella (6-4, 243, Sr.)
SLB	94	Mark Herzlich (6-4, 238, Sr.)
MLB	50	Will Thompson (6-1, 235, So.)
WLB	54	Nick Clancy (6-3, 217, Fr.)
LCB	4	Donnie Fletcher (6-1, 186, So.)
RCB	20	Roderick Rollins (6-0, 188, Sr.)
FS	45	Wes Davis (6-1, 215, Jr.)
SS	8	Marty Bowman (6-2, 217, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	83	Steve Aponavicius (5-10, 198, Sr.)
P	46	Ryan Quigley (6-3, 180, So.)

Sporting News All-American

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-5
ACC: 5-3
(lost to Vanderbilt in the Music City Bowl, 16-14)

Coach: Frank Spaziani
1st year (1-0)
Career record: 1-0 (FBS)
Offensive coordinator:
Gary Tranquill (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Bill McGovern (1st year)

Stadium: Alumni Stadium (44,500)
Tickets: 617-552-4522
Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass.
Official athletic Web site:
www.bceagles.com

CLIFF WELCH / ICON SMI

5-YEAR WINS TREND

'04	9
'05	9
'06	10
'07	11
'08	9

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

Because Frank Spaziani was loyal as the defensive coordinator at Boston College for the last 10 years, he is the new Eagles coach.

Unfortunately, a number of key ingredients to the program's success did leave, which raises doubts about the 2009 season.

Jeff Jagodzinski, who proceeded to win two straight Atlantic Division titles, left over the winter following a squabble with athletics director Gene DeFilippo. The two engaged in a battle of wills after Jagodzinski interviewed for the head-coaching position with the New York Jets.

Jagodzinski was dismissed after serving two years of his five-year contract, and is now the offensive coordinator of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

But if Jagodzinski hadn't left, Spaziani wouldn't have ascended to the head job. Now, Spaziani needs to find replacements for the players who made BC the surprise team of the ACC the past two seasons.

Though the defense must do without linebacker Brian Toal and safety Paul Anderson, its two biggest losses are All-ACC tackles Ron Brace and B.J. Raji. With them, the Eagles ranked fifth in the nation in total defense.

But Spaziani's defense is far from depleted. Senior linebacker Mark Herzlich was named the ACC's Defensive Player of the Year last season after making 110 tackles. The return of junior end Alex Albright, who missed last season with a neck injury, should also help.

However, it's the Eagles' offense that will feel the sting of the departure of Jagodzinski because last year's offensive coordinator, Steve Logan, also left to become the running backs coach for the NFL Buccaneers.

So the Eagles will look to new coordinators Bill McGovern (defense) and Gary Tranquill (offense) to lead the team.

Tranquill will decide between Dominique Davis and Justin Tuggle at quarterback. Although Davis was erratic in his three starts late in the season, he was good enough to direct a game-winning TD at Wake Forest in the Eagles' drive for the division title.

Tuggle, a redshirt freshman, is the son of Jessie Tuggle, who played linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons for 14 seasons.

Whoever wins the quarterback derby will throw to one of the most reliable targets in the conference. Senior Rich Gunnell caught a team-high 49 passes last season for 551 yards and four touchdowns. Justin Jarvis, who is one of the larger receivers (6-5) so in vogue in college football, caught 25 passes last season for 274 yards and three touchdowns.

Running back Montel Harris wasted little time making his mark at Boston College last year, rushing for more yards (900) than any freshman in school history.

With Harris, the Eagles ranked fifth in the league last season in rushing offense (143.3 yards per game) and should be as productive this season with the return of All-ACC offensive tackle Anthony Costanzo.

THE NEXT BIG THING

LARS ANDERSON, TE

He proved he could make big catches in big games as a capable backup to senior Ryan Purvis last season.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Dillon Quinn
DT, 6-6, 295
Quinn has the potential to play on either side of the ball, but his burst off the snap makes him an intriguing defensive prospect.

2 — Jim Noel
CB, 6-3, 180
Noel has a knack for making plays in the secondary, and he could get a shot to prove that early in his college career.

3 — Andre Lawrence
LB, 6-1, 196
Lawrence will need to bulk up before he's ready to contribute. But when he does, his speed and size will set him apart on the field.

4 — Luke Kuechly
LB, 6-3, 220
Kuechly isn't the fastest or strongest linebacker, but he's instinctive, smart and offers a lot of production.

5 — Rolandan Finch
RB, 5-10, 204
Many expected Finch to play for either Kentucky or Louisville, so it came as a surprise when he made the call for the Eagles.

ACC COASTAL PRESEASON RANK

1 VIRGINIA TECH HOKIES

JASON WORILDS ▸ DE

TOP 25 PICK

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	**Alabama***	
This season opener against the SEC power will go a long way toward determining whether Virginia Tech is a national contender or just one of the top teams in the ACC.		
S.12	Marshall	
S.19	Nebraska	35-30
S.26	Miami (FL)	14-16
0.3	@DUKE	14-3
0.10	Boston College	30-12
0.17	@GEORGIA TECH	20-17
0.29	North Carolina	20-17
N.5	@EAST CAROLINA	22-27
N.14	@MARYLAND	23-13
N.21	N.C. State	
N.28	@VIRGINIA	17-14

** at Atlanta, GA*

BOWL PROJECTION
» ORANGE BOWL

BCS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Solid on offensive, defensive lines.
- Don't bet against Frank Beamer.

As they stood on the sideline during the Orange Bowl, Stephan Virgil told Brandon Flowers he had something for him.

On the next series, Virgil snared an interception in the end zone that negated a Cincinnati scoring threat and led to a go-ahead field goal for Virginia Tech just before halftime.

"That's for you," current Virginia Tech cornerback Virgil says he told Flowers, the former Hokie-turned-Kansas City Chief.

That's how Virginia Tech's program is building upon itself as it becomes the pre-eminent power in the ACC. Led by Frank Beamer and one of the game's most stable coaching staffs, the Hokies have won two of the four ACC championship games (in three appearances) since the conference expanded to 12 schools.

Along with Texas and USC, Tech is one of just three schools with at least 10 wins in each of the last five seasons. As standout players leave for the NFL, their successors vow to continue the winning ways.

"They preach a lot about tradition here," Virgil says. "That's what winning football is. It's about tradition. The guys before us, to see how they did it and how hard they worked to get where they did—that's what we're looking forward to doing this year."

After defeating Cincinnati 20-7 in the Orange Bowl last season to finish 10-4, the Hokies are in position for double-digit wins and a run at their third straight conference title in Beamer's 23rd season.

They have one of the ACC's most athletic quarterbacks in Tyrod Taylor, now free from his on-and-off competition with Sean Glennon to become the leader of the 2009 team.

Darren Evans leads a group of running backs that boasts depth, versatility and talent. And end Jason Worilds gives the Hokies the marquee pass rusher that college defensive coordinators crave.

Taylor (738 rushing yards, 1,036 passing yards) will lead the offense and needs to improve as a passer. He completed just 57.2 percent of his attempts last season and threw for two touchdowns with seven interceptions.

But after spending two seasons alternating with Glennon, who was a senior last year, Taylor seems to be settling in as the Hokies' leader. Beamer has said, even while using both players, that he preferred a one-quarterback system.

G. NEWMAN LOWRANCE / GETTY IMAGES

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Tyrod Taylor

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	103.25	173-99-7	57.2	1036	2	86.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Darren Evans	14	287	1265	4.4	11	90.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Danny Coale	13	36	408	11.3	0	31.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Cody Grimm	14	45	26	71

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Jason Worilds	13	8	66

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Stephan Virgil	6	94	15.7	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 10-4
ACC: 5-3
(beat Cincinnati in the Orange Bowl, 20-7)

Coach: Frank Beamer
23rd year (177-89-2)
Career record: 119-112-4
Offensive coordinator:
Bryan Stinespring (4th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Bud Foster (15th year)

Stadium: Lane Stadium (65,115)
Tickets: 540-231-6731
Site: Blacksburg
Official athletic Web site:
www.hokiesports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	5	Tyrod Taylor (6-1, 216, Jr.)
	12	Ju-Ju Clayton (6-0, 215, Fr.)
FB	42	Kenny Jefferson (5-9, 220, Sr.)
	31	Kenny Younger (5-11, 214, Jr.)
RB	32	Darren Evans (6-0, 213, So.)
	25	Josh Oglesby (5-11, 207, So.)
LOT	77	Ed Wang (6-5, 301, Sr.)
	54	Nick Becton (6-5, 292, Fr.)
LOG	70	Sergio Render (6-3, 319, Sr.)
	75	Greg Nosal (6-6, 285, So.)
C	60	Beau Warren (6-3, 277, Jr.)
	67	Michael Via (6-6, 277, Fr.)
ROG	68	Jaymes Brooks (6-2, 300, So.)
	57	Vinston Painter (6-5, 310, Fr.)
ROT	62	Blake DeChristopher (6-5, 303, So.)
	72	Andrew Lanier (6-5, 274, So.)
TE	8	Greg Boone (6-3, 287, Sr.)
	33	Chris Drager (6-3, 239, So.)
WR	81	Jarrett Boykin (6-2, 213, So.)
	35	Austin Fuller (6-2, 207, Fr.)
WR	19	Danny Coale (6-0, 205, So.)
	11	Dyrell Roberts (6-1, 192, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	6	Jason Worilds (6-2, 240, Jr.)
	47	Nekos Brown (6-2, 252, Sr.)
LDT	56	Demetrius Taylor (6-0, 262, Sr.)
	93	Kwamaine Battle (6-0, 283, So.)
RDT	95	Cordarrow Thompson (6-2, 308, Sr.)
	98	Antoine Hopkins (6-2, 295, Fr.)
RDE	91	John Graves (6-3, 275, Jr.)
	54	Isaiah Hamlette (6-4, 242, Fr.)
SLB	41	Cam Martin (6-1, 215, Sr.)
	26	Cody Grimm (5-11, 202, Sr.)
MLB	52	Barquell Rivers (6-0, 230, So.)
	46	Bruce Taylor (6-2, 251, Fr.)
WLB	36	Jake Johnson (6-1, 229, So.)
	38	Quillie Odom (6-1, 225, So.)
LCB	21	Rashad Carmichael (5-10, 192, Jr.)
	9	Cris Hill (5-11, 185, So.)
RCB	22	Stephan Virgil (5-11, 189, Sr.)
	15	Eddie Whitley (6-0, 187, So.)
FS	17	Kam Chancellor (6-4, 226, Sr.)
	14	Lorenzo Williams (6-2, 212, So.)
SS	24	Dorian Porch (5-11, 212, Sr.)
	2	Davon Morgan (6-0, 196, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	80	Matt Waldron (5-11, 190, Sr.)
P	97	Brent Bowden (6-3, 201, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	VT	OPP
SCORING	309	234
Points Per Game	22.1	16.7
FIRST DOWNS	243	192
Rushing	135	78
Passing	84	104
Penalty	24	10
RUSHING YARDAGE	2441	1462
Yards gained rushing	2853	1883
Yards lost rushing	412	421
Rushing Attempts	645	451
Average Per Rush	3.8	3.2
Average Per Game	174.4	104.4
TDs Rushing	23	12
PASSING YARDAGE	1807	2450
Att-Comp-Int	291-167-12	343-181-20
Average Per Pass	6.2	7.1
Average Per Catch	10.8	13.5
Average Per Game	129.1	175.0
TDs Passing	6	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	4248	3912
Total Plays	936	794
Average Per Play	4.5	4.9
Average Per Game	303.4	279.4
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	46-947	62-1206
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	27-242	24-298
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	20-335	12-76

TEAM STATISTICS	VT	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	20.6	19.5
PUNT RETURN AVG.	9.0	12.4
INT RETURN AVG.	16.8	6.3
FUMBLES-LOST	18-8	31-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	70-485	85-743
Average Per Game	34.6	53.1
PUNTS-YARDS	72-2808	72-2935
Average Per Punt	39.0	40.8
Net punt average	33.2	34.3
TIME OF POSS./GAME	33:00	27:00
3RD-DOWN CONV.	80/211	53/173
3rd-Down Pct.	38%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	6/16	6/17
4th-Down Pct.	38%	35%
SACKS BY-YARDS	35-270	42-224
MISC YARDS	0	-7
TDS SCORED	34	27
FG-ATTEMPTS	23-29	15-21
PAT-ATTEMPTS	32-34	23-25
ATTENDANCE	397398	318472
Games/Avg Per Game	6/66233	5/63694
Neutral Site Games		3/66566

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Virginia Tech	60	104	73	72	309
Opponent	38	80	53	63	234

Now he's got it with Taylor at the helm.

"He's a leader," Beamer says. "Just the way he goes about things, he's a leader. He's been a little more vocal at times this spring, and we want him to. He understands, this is his football team, and [he needs to] go lead us and help our football team win."

Virginia Tech's offensive line appears to be in good shape with returning tackles Ed Wang and Blake DeChristopher and left guard Sergio Render, a second-team All-ACC selection who sat out spring practice recovering from shoulder surgery.

Winning the job at center is three-time starter Beau Warren. He'll join right guard Jaymes Brooks, who filled in at the Orange Bowl last year for academically ineligible Nick Marshman. Also returning is tight end Greg Boone, a big target who has also been effective bowling over defenders in the Hokies' "Wild Turkey" direct-snap sets.

Evans (1,265 rushing yards, 11 TDs) is a straight-ahead runner who headlines a strong group of running backs. Josh Oglesby is a slasher and Ryan Williams excels at making potential tacklers miss in the open field.

On defense, the line has a big playmaker in Worilds, who's coming back from a shoulder surgery that kept him out of spring practice. Cordarrow Thompson, John Graves, Nekos Brown and Demetrius Taylor give the Hokies experience up front, although Graves' position at tackle was uncertain in spring practice as coaches tested him at end.

The secondary appears solid as Virgil replaces departed All-ACC selection Victor Harris. Kam Chancellor is back at safety and also provides leadership on defense.

This team does have question marks. Beamer needs to develop a reliable backup quarterback, and a young group of receivers must improve. Either Jake Johnson or Quillie Odom needs to seize control at the weakside linebacker position, and Matt Waldron needs to win the kicking job.

But if history is any indication, Beamer and his staff will get these things figured out in time to take their shot at another 10-win season. And the Hokies' success will just keep building on itself.

RECRUITING REPORT

This is a pretty typical class for Frank Beamer and the program he has built over the years. Of the 22 prospects in this group, 17 come from the Hokies' home state. They did all of their damage recruiting the Eastern Seaboard, and that's a trend that isn't likely to change.

This class is characterized by the versatility of many of the prospects in it, as well as all of the incoming defensive talent that coordinator Bud Foster will have to work with in the coming years.

Lanford Collins, James Gayle and **Duan Perez-Means** are all talented prospects at defensive end who should contribute after they spend some time in the weight room. At defensive back, **Jayron Hosley** and **Jerrodd Williams** are big-time talents who should help continue Tech's tradition of producing great players in the secondary.

Antone Exum and **Theron Norman** are versatile athletes with sturdy builds who could be plugged in at numerous positions. Tight end **Logan Thomas** was the top-ranked prospect at his position. At 6-6 and 233 pounds, Thomas could be an immediate-impact guy.

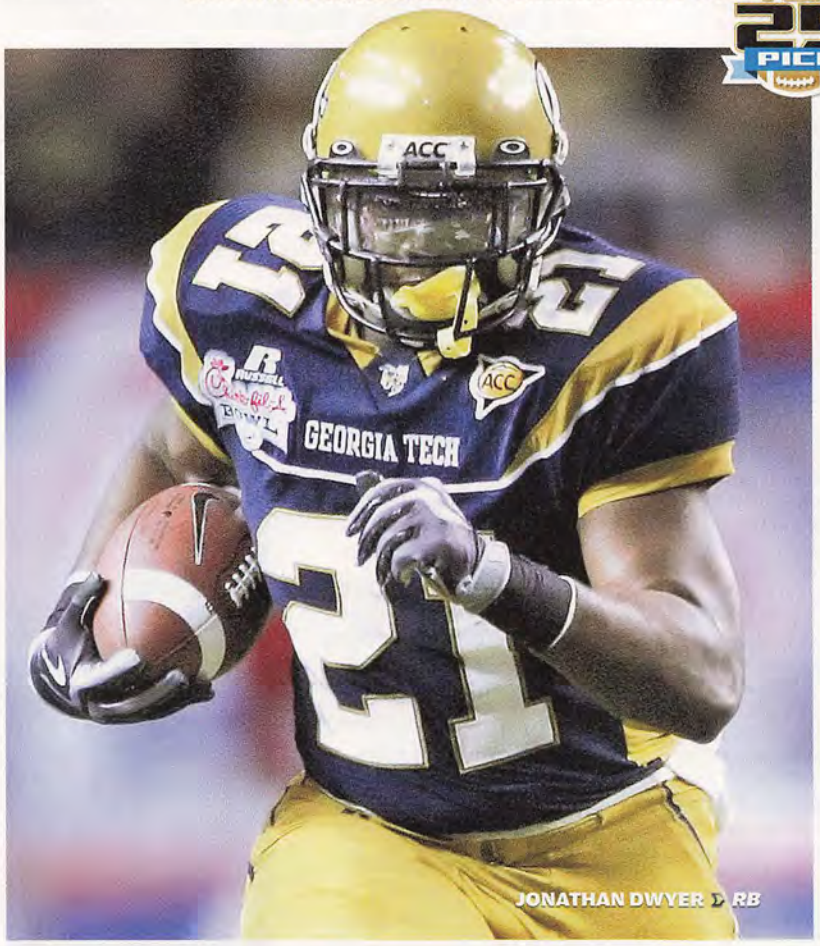
—Mike Farrell, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *RYAN WILLIAMS, RB*

The redshirt freshman scampered 80 yards for a touchdown on his first carry in his first spring scrimmage. At 5-9, 205, Williams is a speedy running back who gives the Hokies a different appearance from powerful starter Darren Evans.

2 GEORGIA TECH YELLOW JACKETS

TOP 25 PICK



JONATHAN DWYER ▸ RB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Jacksonville State	41-14
S.10	Clemson	21-17
S.17	@MIAMI (FL)	41-23
S.26	North Carolina	7-28
0.3	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	38-7
0.10	@FLORIDA STATE	31-28

GAME TO WATCH

0.17 Virginia Tech 17-20

The two Coastal Division favorites face off as coach Paul Johnson matches wits with clever Virginia Tech defensive coordinator Bud Foster.

0.24	@VIRGINIA	17-24
0.31	@VANDERBILT	
N.7	Wake Forest	
N.14	@DUKE	27-0
N.28	Georgia	45-42

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» MUSIC CITY BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Jonathan Dwyer leads a talented backfield.
- The secondary is among the ACC's best.

Running back Jonathan Dwyer plans to be better this fall.

That's bad news for the rest of the ACC, and perhaps the rest of the nation.

Dwyer, who rushed for a conference-high 1,395 yards, was named the ACC's Player of the Year last season after leading Georgia Tech to a 9-4 record. His rare blend of speed and power fits well into second-year coach Paul Johnson's flexbone offense.

Dwyer believes his stamina will be top-notch now that he is 10 pounds lighter, carrying 228 pounds on his 6-0 frame. Dywer says he has improved his footwork, quickness and agility while becoming a better pass blocker.

His personal improvement is just one reason the Yellow Jackets will be a threat to opponents this season. Georgia Tech returns nine starters on offense and eight more on defense, and the players are setting their sights high.

"We want to be a national championship contender," Dwyer says. "We want to win the ACC championship and live up to the hype and show everybody last year wasn't a fluke."

The "fluke" argument is the most common reason cited by those predicting a drop-off for Georgia Tech. When Johnson arrived in Atlanta after six seasons at Navy (and preceded by five at Georgia Southern), some said the option game wouldn't work as well in the ACC as it had against defenses with less talent.

Johnson and Georgia Tech rendered that argument moot last season as the Yellow Jackets ranked fourth in the Football Bowl Subdivision with 273.2 rushing yards per game.

In 2008, 37 of 40 Jackets touchdowns were scored by freshmen or sophomores. So with youth on its side, Georgia Tech should remain a top contender for the Coastal Division title this season. But the doubters are predicting that opposing coaches will have adjusted to the Yellow Jackets' offense after being exposed to it last year.

Those doubts are fueled by LSU's 38-3 thrashing of Georgia Tech in the Chick-fil-A Bowl last season. But the Tigers had more than three weeks to prepare for the flexbone, while opponents during the season will get just one week.

"People will get better at defending it," Johnson says. "We're going to get better at running it, too. We didn't run it very well last year, I don't think. It will be move, counter-move. That's what football is."

The talented backfield will be the focus of most opposing defenses. Dwyer is joined by Roddy Jones, who rushed for 690 yards last season. Georgia Tech has also added Louisville transfer Anthony Allen, who totaled 1,102 rushing yards in his previous two seasons with the Cardinals.

TODD KIRKLAND / ICON SMI

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Josh Nesbitt

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	96.32	123-54-5	43.9	808	2	73.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jonathan Dwyer	13	200	1395	7.0	12	107.3

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Demaryius Thomas	12	39	627	16.1	3	52.3

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Morgan Burnett	13	62	31	93

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Derrick Morgan	13	7	50

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Morgan Burnett	7	95	13.6	1

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
ACC: 5-3
(lost to LSU in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, 38-3)

Coach: Paul Johnson
2nd year (9-4)
Career record: 116-43
Offensive coordinator:
Paul Johnson (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Dave Wommack (2nd year)

Stadium: Bobby Dodd Stadium (55,000)
Tickets: 888-TECH-TIX
Site: Atlanta
Official athletic Web site:
www.ramblinwreck.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	9	Josh Nesbitt (6-1, 214, Jr.)
	11	Jaybo Shaw (6-0, 190, So.)
RB	36	Lucas Cox (6-0, 238, Jr.)
	27	Jonathan Malone (5-9, 167, Sr.)
RB	20	Roddy Jones (5-9, 194, So.)
	3	Marcus Wright (5-8, 175, So.)
RB	21	Jonathan Dwyer (6-0, 228, Jr.)
	43	Anthony Allen (6-0, 229, Jr.)
LOT	75	Nick Claytor (6-6, 304, So.)
	60	Brad Sellers (6-2, 252, Sr.)
LOG	71	Cord Howard (6-5, 310, Sr.)
	74	Zach Krish (6-5, 286, Jr.)
C	77	Dan Voss (6-4, 294, Sr.)
	79	Sean Bedford (6-1, 268, Jr.)
ROG	70	Joseph Gilbert (6-4, 288, So.)
	62	Omoregie Uzzi (6-3, 291, Fr.)
ROT	73	Austin Barrick (6-3, 254, Jr.)
	78	Clyde Yandell (6-5, 296, So.)
WR	15	Correy Earls (6-0, 190, Jr.)
	81	Zach Fisher (6-2, 193, So.)
WR	8	Demaryius Thomas (6-3, 229, Jr.)
	84	Tyler Melton (6-0, 199, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	97	Robert Hall (6-3, 248, Jr.)
	41	Anthony Egbuniwe (6-4, 253, Jr.)
LDT	98	Ben Anderson (6-2, 271, Jr.)
	96	Logan Walls (6-2, 287, So.)
RDT	66	Luke Snider (6-0, 218, Jr.)
	90	TJ Barnes (6-7, 325, Fr.)
RDE	91	Derrick Morgan (6-4, 270, Jr.)
	92	Jason Peters (6-4, 272, So.)
SLB	54	Sedric Griffin (5-11, 239, Sr.)
	12	Anthony Barnes (6-3, 231, Jr.)
MLB	51	Brad Jefferson (6-2, 227, Jr.)
	56	Osahon Tongo (6-3, 252, Jr.)
WLB	59	Kyle Jackson (6-0, 226, So.)
	44	Albert Rocker (6-1, 225, So.)
LCB	28	Rashaad Reid (5-10, 180, So.)
	37	Jerrard Tarrant (6-0, 193, r-So.)
RCB	2	Mario Butler (6-1, 181, Jr.)
	25	DeRon Jasper (6-2, 198, Jr.)
FS	22	Cooper Taylor (6-4, 195, So.)
	26	Dominique Reese (5-11, 178, Jr.)
SS	1	Morgan Burnett (6-1, 198, Jr.)
	46	Mario Edwards (6-1, 210, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	14	Scott Blair (6-0, 173, Jr.)
P	14	Scott Blair (6-0, 173, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	GT	OPP
SCORING	317	264
Points Per Game	24.4	20.3
FIRST DOWNS	214	224
Rushing	151	89
Passing	54	122
Penalty	9	13
RUSHING YARDAGE	3552	1564
Yards gained rushing	3847	1951
Yards lost rushing	295	387
Rushing Attempts	640	432
Average Per Rush	5.6	3.6
Average Per Game	273.2	120.3
TDs Rushing	32	13
PASSING YARDAGE	1290	2512
Att-Comp-Int	165-74-	415-246-18
Average Per Pass	7.8	6.1
Average Per Catch	17.4	10.2
Average Per Game	99.2	193.2
TDs Passing	5	20
TOTAL OFFENSE	4842	4076
Total Plays	805	847
Average Per Play	6.0	4.8
Average Per Game	372.5	313.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	45-883	55-1094
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	27-182	15-147
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	18-245	7-28

TEAM STATISTICS	GT	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	19.6	19.9
PUNT RETURN AVG.	6.7	9.8
INT RETURN AVG.	13.6	4.0
FUMBLES-LOST	36-20	23-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	63-570	58-487
Average Per Game	43.8	37.5
PUNTS-YARDS	47-1845	65-2588
Average Per Punt	39.3	39.8
Net punt average	33.1	35.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:31	29:29
3RD-DOWN CONV.	59/161	72/189
3rd-Down Pct.	37%	38%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/28	10/25
4th-Down Pct.	43%	40%
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-252	19-106
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	40	33
FG-ATTEMPTS	12-20	11-14
PAT-ATTEMPTS	33-35	31-31
ATTENDANCE	332420	339585
Games/Avg Per Game	7/47489	5/67917
Neutral Site Games		1/71423

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Georgia Tech	74	94	77	72	317
Opponent	37	92	52	83	264

Josh Nesbitt (693 rushing yards) may be the most dangerous running quarterback in a conference loaded with talented signal-callers, despite completing just 43.9 percent of his passes with five interceptions and two touchdowns last season.

However, Johnson says Nesbitt has made significant improvement since last summer.

"It's like night and day from a year ago," says Johnson of Nesbitt. "I think he'll just continue to get better the more he plays. We've certainly got to work on our passing game some, but it's not just Josh. It's protection and routes, and all those things."

Nesbitt will throw to a big-time wide receiver in Demaryius Thomas (39 catches, 627 yards). The Yellow Jackets don't have a lot of depth at wideout, but they don't throw the ball often, either, so it shouldn't hurt their game.

After losing tackles Andrew Gardner (All-ACC honoree) and David Brown from last year's team, the offensive line is shaky. Center Dan Voss and second-team All-ACC guard Cord Howard return to lead a unit that struggled last season.

Led by second-team All-America safety Morgan Burnett (7 INTs), the secondary should be the strength of the defense.

Cornerback Rashaad Reid and safety Cooper Taylor also return, while Jerrard Tarrant was one of the most impressive players in spring practice after missing last season with a suspension.

The defensive line lost three outstanding players in Michael Johnson, Vance Walker and Darryl Richard, but still returns end Derrick Morgan, who made seven sacks in '08.

Dwyer says the excitement on campus over football is obvious. He adds that the team has developed the confidence to be a national championship contender.

"That's just the confidence you have to have after having the season we had last year," he says. "Our expectations are higher and we realize we have the opportunity after last season, being a ranked team. We realize all you have to do is win games and you'll end up being up there [in the national championship hunt]."

RECRUITING REPORT

Many people had their doubts about Paul Johnson's ability to recruit top-flight talent to play in his triple-option offense, and it appears as though he is answering those critics this year with one of the ACC's top recruiting classes.

Fourteen of Tech's 21 prospects from the class of 2009 come from Georgia, and plenty of these young men should be excellent fits for what Johnson is trying to do in Atlanta.

Quarterback **Jordan Luallen** and athlete **David Sims** will have the opportunity to get snaps under center, and both can run the option well. At running back, **Daniel Drummond** and **Orwin Smith** appear to be good fits in this offense.

The Tech defense will receive an influx of talent as well. Ends **Izaan Cross** and **Chris Crenshaw** are impressive athletes, and four-star tackle **J.C. Lanier** is the highest-ranked incoming freshman for the Yellow Jackets.

Four other ends should also help bolster the defensive line, while three incoming offensive linemen should aid Johnson in running his offense well in the coming years.

—Mike Farrell, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *JERRARD TARRANT, CB*

The sophomore regularly shut down receivers in the spring after serving a suspension in 2008 and redshirting his freshman season in 2007. Even though Georgia Tech has a strong secondary, Tarrant will make a big impact.

3 NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS

Linebacker Zach Brown's 40-yard dash this spring was so fast the North Carolina coaches made him do it again.

Surely, they thought, the timer made an error. Brown had been timed at 4.28 seconds. As it turned out, there was no mistake.

The second time, with four strength coaches timing him, he ran it in 4.26 seconds. His teammates erupted in excitement after the time was announced.

"He's 230 pounds and doing that," says quarterback T.J. Yates in astonishment of his teammate's speed. "That's scary."

Brown's feat illustrates the way third-year coach Butch Davis is building the Tar Heels in the mold of the Miami program where he served as a defensive assistant under Jimmy Johnson in the 1980s and as head coach from 1995 to 2000.

North Carolina's defense is filled with speedsters who will strengthen the unit. Brown's emergence allows 2008 leading tackler Quan Sturdivant to move from the weak side to the middle at linebacker. At strongside linebacker, the Tar Heels have junior Bruce Carter, who demonstrated his speed on special teams by blocking five kicks in '08.

"When you hear all around the country about Florida and other teams like that with speed, we're starting to get to that level with speed," junior free safety Deunta Williams says.

And on offense, the Tar Heels resemble the old Hurricanes with a pro-style attack that will focus on spreading the ball to tight ends and backs as well as receivers.

This wasn't necessary the last two seasons, as North Carolina had one of the best groups of wideouts in the ACC. With Hakeem Nicks, Brooks Foster and Brandon Tate gone to the NFL, the Tar Heels will rely on a new set of wide receivers in Dwight Jones, Greg Little and Josh Adams.

Yates, who will be in charge of spreading the ball, is hoping for his first healthy season. As a freshman two years ago, he set a few of the school's single-season records with 2,655 passing yards and 14 touchdowns despite a shoulder injury that required surgery. In 2008, he missed six games with a fractured ankle.

Still, the coaches told Yates during spring practices that his mechanics have improved, and he is encouraged by the program's progress under Davis.

Even the week after North Carolina won the NCAA basketball championship, Yates says people walked up to him on campus and asked him about how the football team is doing.

"Even though we just won [in basketball], there's still people talking about next season, how next year's [football] team is going to look," Yates says.

It should look good, although there are areas that need help. The right side of the offensive line, manned by guard Alan Pelc and tackle Mike Ingersoll, is a concern.

Returning defensive-line starters Cam Thomas, Marvin Austin, E.J. Wilson and Robert Quinn combined for just five sacks last year, and that number needs to increase.

DEUNTA WILLIAMS ▸ S

THE NEXT BIG THING

JONATHAN COOPER, G

Cooper is smart and fast, and he'll compete with senior Aaron Stahl for the starting spot at left guard in 2009. Even quarterback T.J. Yates predicts an All-ACC future for the redshirt frosh.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
ACC: 4-4
(lost to West Virginia in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 31-30)

Coach: Butch Davis
3rd year (12-13)
Career record: 63-33
Offensive coordinator:
John Shoop (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Everett Withers (2nd year)

Stadium: Kenan Memorial Stadium (60,000)
Tickets: 800-722-HEEL
Site: Chapel Hill
Official athletic Web site:
www.tarheelblue.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

TOP 25 PICK

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Citadel	
S.12	@CONNECTICUT	38-12
S.19	East Carolina	
S.26	@GEORGIA TECH	28-7
0.3	Virginia	13-16 (OT)
0.10	Georgia Southern	
0.22	Florida State	
0.29	@VIRGINIA TECH	17-20
N.7	Duke	28-20
N.14	Miami (FL)	28-24
N.21	@BOSTON COLLEGE	45-24
N.28	@N.C. STATE	10-41

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 East Carolina

The C-USA defending champion Pirates edged North Carolina two years ago and could get the Tar Heels' season off to a sour start if they do it again.

BOWL PROJECTION

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» CHICK-FIL-A BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Defense is fast and experienced.
- T.J. Yates will miss three wideouts drafted by the NFL.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	13	T.J. Yates (6-3, 215, Jr.)
FB	4	Bobby Rome (5-11, 245, Sr.)
RB	20	Shaun Draughn (6-0, 205, Jr.)
LOT	72	Kyle Jolly (6-6, 300, Sr.)
LOG	73	Aaron Stahl (6-2, 290, Sr.)
C	69	Lowell Dyer (6-4, 290, Sr.)
ROG	70	Alan Pelc (6-6, 325, Jr.)
ROT	66	Mike Ingersoll (6-5, 300, Jr.)
TE	17	Zack Pianalto (6-4, 250, Jr.)
WR	8	Greg Little (6-3, 220, Jr.)
WR	83	Dwight Jones (6-4, 220, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	92	E.J. Wilson (6-3, 280, Sr.)
LDT	9	Marvin Austin (6-3, 300, Jr.)
RDT	93	Cam Thomas (6-3, 330, Sr.)
RDE	42	Robert Quinn (6-5, 260, So.)
SLB	54	Bruce Carter (6-3, 230, Jr.)
MLB	52	Quan Sturdivant (6-2, 235, Jr.)
WLB	47	Zach Brown (6-2, 230, So.)
LCB	16	Kendric Burney (5-9, 185, Jr.)
RCB	23	Jordan Hemby (5-10, 185, Sr.)
FS	27	Deunta Williams (6-2, 205, Jr.)
SS	21	Da'Norris Searcy (6-0, 200, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	11	Casey Barth (5-11, 170, So.)
P	39	Grant Schallock (6-7, 225, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Donte Moss
DE, 6-4, 235
Moss has the potential to be the best pass rusher in Chapel Hill since Julius Peppers.

2 Jheranie Boyd
WR, 6-2, 184
Boyd is a stretch-the-field receiver the team needs. The track star has good size, but his strength is his speed.

3 Donavan Tate
ATH, 6-2, 205
Tate is one of the best all-around athletes in the country—for both football and baseball.

4 Bryn Renner
QB, 6-3, 192
He is a smart, heady quarterback with good accuracy and a strong arm.

5 Jared McAdoo
DT, 6-2, 285
McAdoo has all the potential to be a star in college and beyond, and line coach John Blake will develop him nicely.

DAVID J. GRIFFIN / ICON SMI

MIAMI HURRICANES 4

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.7	@FLORIDA STATE	39-41
GAME TO WATCH		
S.17	**Georgia Tech**	**23-41**
Miami will be itching for revenge after Georgia Tech's option game shut down the 'Canes last season. But they must be more disciplined on defense to win.		
S.26	@VIRGINIA TECH	16-14
0.3	Oklahoma	
0.10	Florida A&M	
0.17	@UCF	20-14
0.24	Clemson	
0.31	@WAKE FOREST	16-10
N.7	Virginia	24-17 (OT)
N.14	@NORTH CAROLINA	24-28
N.21	Duke	49-31
N.28	@SOUTH FLORIDA	

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» HUMANITARIAN BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» Quarterback Jacory Harris will shine under new offensive coordinator.

» Linebacker Sean Spence leads a defense that's deep and fast.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Jacory Harris (6-4, 190, So.)
FB	30	Patrick Hill (5-9, 260, Sr.)
RB	2	Graig Cooper (6-0, 202, Jr.)
LOT	64	Jason Fox (6-7, 310, Sr.)
LOG	74	Orlando Franklin (6-7, 334, Jr.)
C	70	AJ Trump (6-3, 308, Sr.)
ROG	61	Joel Figueroa (6-5, 335, Jr.)
ROT	65	Matt Pipho (6-7, 307, Sr.)
TE	84	Richard Gordon (6-4, 270, Sr.)
WR	4	Aldarius Johnson (6-2, 205, So.)
WR	3	Travis Benjamin (5-10, 170, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	94	Eric Moncur (6-2, 255, Sr.)
LDT	57	Allen Bailey (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RDT	91	Joe Joseph (6-3, 302, Sr.)
RDE	56	Marcus Robinson (6-1, 242, So.)
SLB	11	Arthur Brown (6-2, 220, Fr.)
MLB	31	Sean Spence (6-0, 211, Fr.)
WLB	50	Darryl Sharpton (5-11, 235, Sr.)
LCB	24	Chavez Grant (5-11, 183, Sr.)
RCB	13	Ryan Hill (5-11, 205, Sr.)
FS	6	Randy Phillips (6-0, 210, Sr.)
SS	29	JoJo Nicolas (6-1, 197, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	25	Matt Bosher (6-0, 205, Jr.)
P	25	Matt Bosher (6-0, 205, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
ACC: 4-4
(lost to California in the Emerald Bowl, 24-17)

Coach: Randy Shannon
3rd year (12-13)
Career record: 12-13
Offensive coordinator:
Mark Whipple (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
John Lovett (1st year)

Stadium: Dolphin Stadium (76,500)
Tickets: 800-GO-CANES
Site: Coral Gables, Fla.
Official athletic Web site:
www.hurricanesports.com

JASON FOX » LT

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Before spring practice began, Miami left tackle Jason Fox sat in on some coaches meetings to get a read on new offensive coordinator Mark Whipple.

It didn't take long for Whipple to say what Fox wanted to hear. Whipple described how the Hurricanes' offense would be unbeatable because the team will learn ways around any defensive front or coverage.

"It's, 'You do what you do, and we'll do what we do. And we're going to beat you,'" Fox says. "That's basically his mentality, and we're trying to make it our offense's mentality right now."

Whipple and first-year defensive coordinator John Lovett have injected enthusiasm at Miami, which for the past few years has failed to live up to the program's rich heritage. The players, who have struggled to describe why the team has gone 19-19 over the past three seasons, hope coach Randy Shannon has found an answer in Whipple and Lovett after former offensive coordinator Patrick Nix was fired and defensive coordinator Bill Young left for Oklahoma State.

Now that quarterback Robert Marve has transferred, Jacory Harris will have the chance to develop under Whipple, who is coaching the position. Harris has the height (6-4) and arm to be a pro-style passer.

Miami has the tailbacks to thrive in a pro-style attack, as Graig Cooper rushed for 841 yards in '08.

Aldarius Johnson headlines a wide-receiving corps that has speed but no proven gamebreaker.

On defense, Lovett takes over after serving for two years as an assistant at North Carolina. His strength is getting players to understand their responsibilities.

"[Lovett] made things way easier for us," safety Randy Phillips says. "He likes to focus on simplifying things and running plays that we're going to be able to play fast, and everybody is going to know what they're doing."

Shannon's habit of rotating players on defense ensures talent, but few stand out. Sean Spence (7.5 tackles for loss) leads a group of linebackers that include Darryl Sharpton and Arthur Brown. Marcus Robinson, Joe Joseph, Allen Bailey and Eric Moncur all look like NFL prospects on the defensive line. The secondary was shaky last season, but Phillips is back from a knee injury, and former wide receiver Sam Shields could be an impact player at cornerback later in the year.

Fox says the Hurricanes are confident they have enough players to restore their status as a championship contender.

"We're Miami," Fox says. "We have a lot of talent at this school. We're always going to have talent. If we put it together the right way and things come together at the right moment, there are a lot of things that come in and factor to make a good team great.

"Every year I've been here we've gotten closer to accomplishing that goal. And hopefully this is our year."

THE NEXT BIG THING

MIKE JAMES, RB

The freshman running back is behind two established veterans in Graig Cooper and Javarris James, but might be too good to keep off the field. James befuddled the defense during spring practice with his comprehensive understanding of the offense.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
Ray Ray Armstrong
ATH, 6-4, 218
Armstrong's versatility and athleticism made him the top-ranked athlete in the nation.

2
Lamar Miller
RB, 5-11, 205
The nation's top running back, Miller can break tackles and beat linebackers to the corner.

3
Brandon McGee
CB, 5-11, 186
McGee runs the 40-yard dash in 4.35 seconds and was ranked as the No. 10 corner in the nation as a senior.

4
Brandon Washington
OG, 6-5, 330
An imposing presence at guard, Washington is more ready to contribute than your average freshman.

5
Dyron Dye
DE, 6-4, 215
While Dye will need time to bulk up before he is ready to play, he's too talented to keep off the field for long.

RICHARD C LEWIS / ICON SMI

5 VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

Opponents will see some familiar faces at Virginia this season.

Jameel Sewell, who missed last season because he was academically ineligible, is back competing for the job at quarterback.

Ron Prince has returned to Al Groh's staff as special-teams coach after spending three seasons as Kansas State's head coach.

And Groh himself survived a 5-7 effort last year and returns for his ninth season as coach.

But a lot has changed too.

Virginia has four new assistant coaches. Gregg Brandon, the new offensive coordinator, has installed a spread offense different from the pro-style game Groh used early in his tenure with the Cavaliers.

Groh's son, Mike, stepped down as offensive coordinator after Virginia finished 114th nationally in scoring (16.1 points per game) in 2008.

Groh says having experienced quarterbacks should benefit the offense as it continues its conversion to a new scheme that began last spring.

"We came out of last spring [2008] with no quarterbacks who had started a college football game," Groh says. "We now have three quarterbacks who have started a college football game. So that certainly puts us well in advance of where we were a year ago."

Other playmakers will have to emerge, though, if Virginia's record is going to improve. Sophomore Jared Green's 12 catches for 144 yards last season are tops among the returning wide receivers.

The saving grace on offense should be a line that includes four returning starters. Will Barker, the senior right tackle who's emerged as a team leader, has made 37 starts in his career.

"We don't get all the credit," Barker says. "We just do our job and block. But I definitely think the offensive line can set the tempo and lead the way for the offense."

On defense, the loss of 2008 senior standouts Clint Sintim, Jon Copper and Antonio Appleby could be devastating. But senior Denzel Burrell (48 tackles) is back at linebacker, along with Aaron Clark, who won a starting job last year before suffering a knee injury in the opener against USC.

Aside from that, the Cavaliers don't have much experience at linebacker in a 3-4 scheme that emphasizes the position.

Virginia should boast a good defensive line with end Matt Conrath emerging as a standout and three strong options at nose tackle in Nate Collins, Nick Jenkins and John-Kevin Dolce.

The secondary is also in good shape, led by cornerback Ras-I Dowling and safety Corey Mosley.

Punter Jimmy Howell is back, and Groh says finding a reliable kicker is "critical" as sophomores Robert Randolph and Chris Hinkebein compete for the position.

The lack of proven talent at receiver and linebacker could make it hard for Groh to get this team to a bowl, but he has hope the new offense can provide a lift.

THE NEXT BIG THING

RODNEY McLEOD, CB

The sophomore played some at nickel back last season and wowed the coaches in the spring with his speed and take-charge attitude. Despite his lack of experience, he should be a leader on defense this season.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
ACC: 3-5

Coach: Al Groh
9th year (56-44)
Career record: 82-84
Offensive coordinator:
Gregg Brandon (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Al Groh (9th year)

Stadium: Scott Stadium (61,500)
Tickets: 800-542-UVA1
Site: Charlottesville
Official athletic Web site:
www.virginiasports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

'04	8
'05	7
'06	5
'07	8
'08	5

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	William & Mary	
S.12	TCU	
S.19	@SOUTHERN MISS	
0.3	@NORTH CAROLINA	16-13 (OT)
0.10	Indiana	
GAME TO WATCH		
0.17	**@Maryland**	**31-0**
This rivalry game against the Terrapins, who have lost some talent from last season, could shape the way Virginia's ACC season begins.		
0.24	Georgia Tech	24-17
0.31	Duke	3-31
N.7	@MIAMI (FL)	17-24 (OT)
N.14	Boston College	
N.21	@CLEMSON	3-13
N.28	Virginia Tech	14-17

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Cavs thin at linebacker.
- Still seeking big playmaker on offense.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Jameel Sewell (6-3, 219, Sr.)
FB	31	Rashawn Jackson (6-1, 253, Sr.)
RB	5	Mikell Simpson (6-1, 200, Sr.)
LOT	67	Landon Bradley (6-7, 275, Fr.)
LOG	63	Austin Pasztor (6-7, 310, So.)
C	64	Jack Shields (6-5, 289, Jr.)
ROG	65	B.J. Cabbell (6-6, 304, Jr.)
ROT	61	Will Barker (6-7, 315, Sr.)
TE	83	Joe Torchia (6-6, 255, Jr.)
WR	18	Kris Burd (5-11, 189, So.)
WR	84	Jared Green (6-2, 178, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	95	Kevin Crawford (6-3, 289, Sr.)
NT	98	Nate Collins (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RDE	94	Matt Conrath (6-7, 269, So.)
LOLB	41	Aaron Clark (6-5, 250, Sr.)
LILB	42	Darnell Carter (6-3, 244, Jr.)
RILB	49	Darren Childs (6-1, 233, Sr.)
ROLB	45	Denzel Burrell (6-4, 230, Sr.)
LCB	4	Vic Hall (5-9, 190, Sr.)
RCB	19	Ras-I Dowling (6-2, 200, Jr.)
FS	17	Brandon Woods (6-2, 211, Sr.)
SS	40	Corey Mosley (5-10, 197, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	30	Robert Randolph (5-10, 160, So.)
P	8	Jimmy Howell (6-6, 238, So.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Morgan Moses
OT, 6-7, 347
Moses is an imposing presence on the line and could be an immediate fixture if he shows up in shape.

2 — Dominique Wallace
FB, 6-1, 231
The No. 1 fullback in the nation as a senior, Wallace runs the 40-yard dash in 4.48 seconds.

3 — Tim Smith
WR, 6-0, 182
Smith has the hands, route-running ability and intangibles to make an early impact in Charlottesville.

4 — Oday Aboushi
OT, 6-6, 300
Aboushi moves well for his size. He also has a high football IQ, which could help him crack the depth chart early.

5 — Quintin Hunter
ATH, 6-2, 180
Hunter spent a lot of time at quarterback, meaning he has a good grasp of the workings of the game.

DALE ZANINE / US PRESSWIRE

DUKE BLUE DEVILS 6

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Richmond	
S.12	@ARMY	
S.19	@KANSAS	
S.26	North Carolina Central	
O.3	Virginia Tech	3-14
O.10	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	17-27
O.24	Maryland	
O.31	@VIRGINIA	

GAME TO WATCH

N.7 @ North Carolina 20-28

This rivalry game has been moved from the final week of the regular season, so there's a chance the Tar Heels will overlook Duke after winning 18 of the last 19 in the series.

N.14	Georgia Tech	0-27
N.21	@MIAMI (FL)	31-49
N.28	Wake Forest	30-33 (OT)

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Duke lacks explosive playmakers.
- Linebackers, defensive backs look vulnerable.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	9	Thaddeus Lewis (6-2, 200, Sr.)
RB	21	Re'quan Boyette (5-10, 200, Sr.)
LOT	79	Kyle Hill (6-6, 270, So.)
LOG	77	Jarrod Holt (6-6, 310, Sr.)
C	62	Bryan Morgan (6-3, 250, Jr.)
ROG	46	Jackson Anderson (6-4, 240, So.)
ROT	66	Pontus Bondeson (6-6, 275, Jr.)
TE	87	Brett Huffman (6-5, 235, Jr.)
WR	37	Johnny Williams (5-10, 190, So.)
WR	17	Sheldon Bell (6-4, 200, Jr.)
WR	26	Donovan Varner (5-9, 170, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	91	Ayanga Okpokowuruk (6-4, 255, Sr.)
LDT	3	Vince Oghobaase (6-6, 300, Sr.)
RDT	93	Charlie Hatcher (6-3, 275, So.)
RDE	90	Patrick Egboh (6-4, 240, Jr.)
SLB	8	Abraham Kromah (6-1, 215, Jr.)
MLB	56	Damian Thornton (6-1, 235, Jr.)
WLB	31	Vincent Rey (6-0, 240, Sr.)
LCB	36	Lee Butler (5-10, 180, So.)
RCB	16	Chris Rwabukamba (6-0, 175, Jr.)
FS	23	Catron Gainey (6-2, 205, Sr.)
SS	40	Matt Daniels (6-1, 195, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	47	Nick Maggio (6-4, 190, Jr.)
P	49	Kevin Jones (6-3, 200, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
ACC: 1-7

Coach: David Cutcliffe
2nd year (4-8)
Career record: 48-37
Offensive coordinators:
Matt Luke (2nd year)
Kurt Roper (2nd year)
Defensive coordinators:
Marion Hobby (2nd year)
Mike MacIntyre (2nd year)

Stadium: Wallace Wade Stadium (33,941)
Tickets: 877-375-DUKE
Site: Durham, N.C.
Official athletic Web site:
www.goduke.com

VINCE OGHOBAASE ▸ DT

KEVIN C. COX / GETTY IMAGES

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Before one of Duke's practices last spring, a few guys had left the locker room a mess. So at the end of a scrimmage, the Blue Devils lined up across the length of the sideline at Wallace Wade Stadium to be taught a lesson.

They were made to do a brutal drill coach David Cutcliffe calls "lame dog." The players dropped down on all fours, and then scuttled the width of the field holding one leg up in the air while in full pads.

"I expect us to have the cleanest locker room and the most disciplined football team in the country," Cutcliffe says.

By most accounts, Cutcliffe's high standards helped Duke achieve its best win total in five years with a 4-8 finish in 2008.

Players say the team is improving, which would make the Blue Devils' first bowl appearance since 1994 seem possible. Senior Thaddeus Lewis returns at quarterback after earning second-team All-ACC honors last season and passing for at least 2,100 yards in each of the past three years.

With a year working together, Cutcliffe now trusts Lewis to make his own adjustments at the line of scrimmage. They both hope that will keep the Blue Devils out of bad plays.

Aside from quarterback, Duke is short on offensive talent. Center Bryan Morgan and left tackle Kyle Hill are the only starters back on the line, while sophomore wide receiver Johnny Williams is the only returning player who had more than 200 receiving yards last season.

Duke's coaches hope the return of senior running back Re'quan Boyette, who missed all of last season with knee surgery, will spark a rushing attack that was held to 106.2 yards per game in 2008.

"I bring a lot of explosiveness to the game," said Boyette after breaking off a 55-yard touchdown run in a spring scrimmage. "But I also try to be a great leader, mainly, and try to show the younger guys how to practice, how to play."

The defensive line should be strong with senior returning starters in Vince Oghobaase at tackle and Ayanga Okpokowuruk at end.

But the linebackers and secondary could be a problem. Weakside linebacker Vincent Rey and safety Catron Gainey are surrounded by inexperienced teammates, and linebacker Michael Tauiliili, who graduated, will be missed.

Still, Duke harbors one big asset—intelligence—and the coaching staff wants to use it to confuse opponents.

"Our defense, by design, is maybe the best that I've been around in disguise," Cutcliffe says. "... It's very difficult from my eye to know what they're doing."

Duke's scarcity of proven playmakers on offense and shaky back seven on defense should leave the Blue Devils near the bottom of the Coastal Division. But with Cutcliffe demanding perfection right up to the condition of the locker room, players are confident the team will continue gaining on the ACC.

"We're going to get better," Rey says, "because, mainly, we get better every day."

THE NEXT BIG THING

MATT DANIELS, S

The sophomore had an interception and a fumble recovery last season against Virginia Tech before suffering a leg injury that sidelined him for the rest of the season. Duke's coaches like Daniels' speed and understanding of the game.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Desmond Scott
RB, 5-9, 185
The talented all-purpose back was a huge coup for the Blue Devils after he initially committed to Rutgers.

2 John Drew
DT, 6-1, 303
Drew is a four-star prospect at defensive tackle, and Duke hasn't seen many of those in recent memory.

3 Walt Canty
S, 5-11, 198
Canty runs well and has a knack for finding himself around the ball. With his solid frame, he can help in run support.

4 Tyree Watkins
WR, 6-2, 185
Watkins is a big-time playmaker with the speed that will move him up the depth chart quickly.

5 Justin Foxx
DE, 6-3, 211
Foxx will need to gain weight before he can contribute, but there's always the possibility he could move from defensive end to linebacker.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

BIG EAST

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1 Pittsburgh
2 West Virginia
3 South Florida
4 Rutgers
5 Cincinnati
6 Connecticut
7 Louisville
8 Syracuse

Big East unpredictable on any given day

By Pete Williams, *Correspondent*

In the Big East, it seems any team can win on Saturday. Or Friday. Or Thursday.

Purists will bemoan the lack of perennial powers, especially in a hodgepodge conference still trying to forge an identity in the aftermath of college football's sweeping realignment earlier this decade. Then again, the Big East may have cemented its reputation as perhaps the most exciting league in the sport, providing high drama on Saturdays, as well as Thursday and Friday nights.

Big East football never will be mistaken for Big East basketball, the nation's most dominant conference in 2008-09. But football might be the enduring legacy of former commissioner Mike Tranghese, who made the league relevant through shrewd television negotiations and aggressive marketing.

Last season, four teams finished conference play 5-2 or better. As usual, it wasn't the four expected to do so. Connecticut and South Florida, both preseason favorites, posted losing records in the conference but still made it to bowl games, where they both won. Louisville, 12-1 in 2006, fell to a 1-6 record in the Big East. Syracuse, alas, remains the constant in the cellar.

No conference recruits collectively from as wide a base as this one. While Jim Leavitt and South Florida are content to stay in talent-rich Florida, schools such as Rutgers and West Virginia attack the entire East Coast, including the Sunshine State. Few conferences make better use of junior-college products, making it easier to reload.

Big East schools will pad their schedules with early-season creampuffs like any other BCS program, but it's a rare team that includes at least two tough nonconference opponents.

Even by Big East standards, the conference is wide-open this year. Only Cincinnati and South Florida have established quarterbacks and virtually everyone is breaking in at least one coordinator, a new offensive line and a new kicking game. Even Syracuse has reason for optimism with new coach Doug Marrone and the return of wide receiver Mike Williams.

That means the league will be more unpredictable than ever—any day of the week.

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Jesse Hester, USF

Best Hands
Mardy Gilyard, WR, Cincinnati

Best Passing QB
Tony Pike, Cincinnati

Best Running QB
Matt Grothe, USF

Most Elusive RB
Noel Devine, West Virginia

Best Instincts
Victor Anderson, RB, Louisville

Best Athlete
Mike Williams, WR, Syracuse

Best Under Pressure
Tony Pike, QB, Cincinnati

Top NFL Prospect
George Selvie, DE, USF

Top Impact Freshman
Dion Lewis, RB, Pittsburgh

Hardest Hitter
Aaron Webster, S, Cincinnati

Biggest Underachiever
Jock Sanders, WR, West Virginia

Best Home-Field Advantage
West Virginia

Best Fans
West Virginia

Best Mascot
The Mountaineer, West Virginia

Best Stadium
Raymond James Stadium, USF

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Mike Farrell, *Rivals.com*

1. WEST VIRGINIA New staff, same recruiting success. This class is indicative of how the Mountaineers plan to tweak their offense. Four talented wide receivers should make the passing game formidable down the road.

2. USF The Bulls have the best recruiting base in the Big East and they made good use of it for the class of 2009. South Florida signed six defensive ends.

3. RUTGERS This class would look better if everyone who committed to Rutgers actually signed, but there is still plenty to be excited about for the Scarlet Knights. Quarterback Tom Savage will arrive on campus as perhaps the most highly touted recruit in the history of the program.

4. PITTSBURGH Dave Wannstedt got over the hump in 2008 by guiding Pitt to a bowl game, and he followed that up with another nice recruiting effort.

5. CINCINNATI After a stellar 2008 campaign that was capped with a trip to the Orange Bowl, the Bearcats did a nice job on the recruiting trail.

6. CONNECTICUT This is one of the better classes in the history of the UConn program. Four-star wide receiver Dwayne Difton comes to the school with high expectations.

7. LOUISVILLE It was a rough second year for coach Steve Kragthorpe, and recruiting wasn't any easier. Junior-college offensive tackle Joe Evinger should be an early contributor, but it was a struggle for the Cardinals to sign quality players.

8. SYRACUSE As is often the case, the coaching change made it tough for the Orange to recruit this year. Five defensive backs are the strength of this class.

ALL-BIG EAST

OFFENSE

QB Tony Pike, Sr., Cincinnati
RB Victor Anderson, So., Louisville
RB Noel Devine, Jr., West Virginia
OL Anthony Davis, Jr., Rutgers
OL Moe Petrus, So., Connecticut
OL Jason Pinkston, Jr., Pittsburgh
OL Jim McKenzie, Jr., Syracuse
OL Selvish Capers, Sr., West Virginia
WR Mardy Gilyard, Jr., Cincinnati
WR Doug Beaumont, Jr., Louisville
TE Nate Byham, Sr., Pittsburgh

DEFENSE

DL George Selvie, Sr., South Florida
DL Greg Romeus, Jr., Pittsburgh
DL Arthur Jones, Sr., Syracuse
DL Scooter Berry, Jr., West Virginia
LB Scott Lutrus, Jr., Connecticut
LB Jon Dempsey, Sr., Louisville
LB Ryan D'Imperio, Sr., Rutgers
DB Aaron Berry, Sr., Pittsburgh
DB Robert Vaughn, Sr., Connecticut
DB Jasper Howard, Jr., Connecticut
DB Nate Allen, Sr., South Florida

SPECIALISTS

K San San Te, So., Rutgers
P Desi Cullen, Sr., Connecticut

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 The South Florida Bulls will prove they're a legitimate Florida power by defeating either Florida State in Tallahassee or (more likely) Miami in Tampa.

2 Cincinnati, despite a new 3-4 scheme and just one returning starter, will still have one of the league's better defenses under new coordinator Bob Diaco.

3 Running back Dion Lewis will be the latest true freshman to make an immediate impact for Pittsburgh, softening the blow of LeSean McCoy's early departure to the NFL.

4 The return of receiver Mike Williams will spark Syracuse to two conference wins, but progress under new coach Doug Marrone will be slow, especially with a tough nonconference schedule.

ASCENDING

SYRACUSE After just 10 wins in four years under Greg Robinson, there's nowhere to go but up for the Orange with new coach Doug Marrone.

DESCENDING

WEST VIRGINIA With Noel Devine and a tough defense, the Mountaineers are still contenders for the Big East title. But without QB Pat White, they're no longer the favorite.

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Up-and-comers

These guys haven't even signed letter of intent yet, but recruiting guru **Brian McLaughlin** has put together SN's all-defensive team for the Class of 2010. Linebacker Corey Nelson of Dallas and lineman Zack McCray of Lynchburg, Va., are among those worth watching. **Full story**

The Recruitnik: All stars of 2009

Interviews are finished

Eben Britton says his visit to the Vikings had the feel of a college recruiting visit, and he's happy with all three teams he visited. **Draft Diary**
Free: Mock draft | Top prospects

News | Recruiting | Campus Watch

- Paulus, Rich Rod meet about Michigan QB job (17)
- Documents show missteps in Missouri death
- Sanchez won't be in New York for NFL Draft (11)
- Vegas Bowl gets Maaco sponsor, sets Dec. 22 (3)
- Group wants to move college HOF to Dallas (7)
- Former Arizona State coach Snyder dies at 69 (9)
- S Carolina's LeCorn breaks leg in spring game (2)
- Gators lose four more starters to injury (8)
- Mich. State RB Winston gets 6 months in fight (3)
- Nebraska's Paul suspended after DUI arrest (3)

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NCAA Football
Recruiting News

Cassius picks Cal

Sometimes, a player surprises even his own mother and high school coach. Highly rated DT Cassius Marsh did just that when he committed to Jeff Tedford and the Golden Bears. **Read more**

- Gators land 10th commitment
- Spurrier lands QB for South Carolina
- RB Bernard talking top three
- Georgia lands second commitment
- CB Riggs slowly trimming list

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Blog Network

THE SPORTING BLOG

Profile in courage: Cory Wilson, Chicago Bears

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BIG EAST PRESEASON RANK

1 PITTSBURGH PANTHERS

NATE BYHAM ▸ TE

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Youngstown State	
S.12	@BUFFALO	27-16
S.19	Navy	42-21
S.26	@N.C. STATE	
O.2	@LOUISVILLE	41-7
O.10	Connecticut	34-10
O.16	@RUTGERS	34-54
O.24	South Florida	26-21
N.7	Syracuse	34-24
N.14	Notre Dame	36-33 (OT)

GAME TO WATCH

N.27 West Virginia 19-15

The conference title could be decided under a national spotlight the day after Thanksgiving. The Panthers have won two straight low-scoring affairs.

D.5	Cincinnati	21-28

BOWL PROJECTION
» SUGAR BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Dave Wannstedt has the personnel in place.
- Must find an adequate successor to feature back LeSean McCoy.

Dave Wannstedt looked like an underachiever after his first three seasons at his alma mater, with a losing record and no bowl games to his credit. But his three straight top-25 recruiting classes began to bear fruit in 2008 with a nine-win season, an appearance in the Sun Bowl and a No. 18 ranking in the final *Associated Press* poll.

Now entering his fifth year, Wannstedt is still looking to produce Pitt's first bowl win since 2002 and first postseason point since 2004. The Panthers lost the '08 Sun Bowl to Oregon State, 3-0.

He has the Panthers in position to contend for a Big East title, though he'll have to replace his most valuable players on either side of the ball—linebacker Scott McKillop and running back LeSean McCoy, who left school early for the NFL. The Panthers also must replace their top receiver (Derek Kinder).

Wannstedt insists incumbent quarterback Bill Stull won't be handed the starting job after an erratic season in which he completed 57 percent of his passes for 2,356 yards last year. He also threw only nine touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Stull has been injury-prone, which means junior Pat Bostick will be a valuable insurance policy.

The Panthers won't replace the production of McCoy, the nation's second-leading scorer last year. They'll need to find a capable successor, however, as only three of the Panthers' 27 touchdowns inside the 20 last season came by way of the pass. Only junior Kevin Collier and sophomore Shariff Harris have carried the ball at the college level. However, recruit Dion Lewis, who enrolled in January, saw significant action in the spring and should emerge as the starter.

Jonathan Baldwin averaged a team-high 22.4 yards per reception as a true freshman last season, catching 18 passes for 404 yards. Senior Oderick Turner also returns after a 21-catch, 298-yard season.

Tight end Nate Byham (20 catches, 260 yards) became the first Pitt tight end to earn first-team All-Big East honors and just the third to be honored on an all-conference team.

The Panthers must replace C.J. Davis, an all-conference performer, but return

RANDY LITZINGER

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Bill Stull	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	12	119.88	330-188-10	57.0	2356	9	196.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Aundre Wright	12	5	34	6.8	1	2.8

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
T.J. Porter	10	25	357	14.3	0	35.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Dom DeCicco	13	38	18	56

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Greg Romeus	13	7.5	56

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Dom DeCicco	4	0	0.0	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
Big East: 5-2
(lost to Oregon State in the Sun Bowl, 3-0)

Coach: Dave Wannstedt
5th year (25-23)
Career record: 25-23
Offensive coordinator:
Frank Cignetti Jr. (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Phil Bennett (2nd year)

Stadium: Heinz Field (65,050)
Tickets: 412-648-PITT
Site: Pittsburgh
Official athletic Web site:
www.pittsburghpanthers.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	11	Bill Stull (6-3, 215, Sr.)
	19	Pat Bostick (6-3, 220, Jr.)
FB	27	Henry Hynoski (6-2, 250, So.)
		Joe Capp (5-10, 220, Jr.)
RB	28	Dion Lewis (5-8, 190, Fr.)
	43	Shariff Harris (6-1, 215, So.)
LOT	77	Jason Pinkston (6-4, 300, Jr.)
	68	Jordan Gibbs (6-7, 290, So.)
LOG	54	Chris Jacobson (6-3, 290, Fr.)
	52	Lucas Nix (6-6, 300, So.)
C	64	Robb Houser (6-2, 285, Sr.)
	53	Alex Karabin (6-1, 290, Jr.)
ROG	74	John Malecki (6-3, 280, Sr.)
	69	Jared Martin (6-2, 285, Jr.)
ROT	56	Joe Thomas (6-5, 300, Sr.)
	60	Greg Gaskins (6-4, 295, So.)
TE	80	Nate Byham (6-3, 255, Sr.)
	2	Dorin Dickerson (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WR	82	Jonathan Baldwin (6-5, 220, So.)
	1	Cedric McGee (6-1, 205, Sr.)
WR	88	Oderick Turner (6-3, 205, Sr.)
	10	Aundre Wright (5-11, 180, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	97	Jabaal Sheard (6-4, 250, Jr.)
	46	Shayne Hale (6-4, 240, Fr.)
LDT	94	Myles Caragein (6-2, 275, So.)
	57	Craig Bokor (6-3, 290, Sr.)
RDT	95	Ernest (Mick) Williams (6-1, 285, Sr.)
	93	Gus Mustakas (6-3, 280, Sr.)
RDE	91	Greg Romeus (6-5, 265, r-Jr.)
	90	Tony Tucker (6-2, 235, So.)
SLB	38	Greg Williams (6-3, 225, So.)
	44	Nate Nix (6-3, 235, Jr.)
MLB	6	Steve Dell (6-1, 235, Sr.)
	8	Adam Gunn (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WLB	15	Shane Murray (6-1, 220, Sr.)
	32	Tristan Roberts (6-0, 230, So.)
LCB	7	Jovani Chappel (5-9, 180, Sr.)
	21	Buddy Jackson (6-0, 175, So.)
RCB	17	Aaron Berry (5-11, 175, Sr.)
	22	Antwuan Reed (5-10, 180, So.)
FS	4	Elijah Fields (6-2, 220, Jr.)
	41	Andrew Taglianetti (5-11, 175, So.)
SS	31	Dom DeCicco (6-3, 220, Jr.)
	20	Irvan Brown (6-0, 205, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	31	Dan Hutchins (5-11, 190, Jr.)
P	31	Dan Hutchins (5-11, 190, Jr.)

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	PITT	OPP
SCORING	352	279
Points Per Game	27.1	21.5
FIRST DOWNS	239	217
Rushing	101	95
Passing	118	103
Penalty	20	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	1808	1614
Yards gained rushing	2186	1998
Yards lost rushing	378	384
Rushing Attempts	492	451
Average Per Rush	3.7	3.6
Average Per Game	139.1	124.2
TDs Rushing	29	14
PASSING YARDAGE	2644	2509
Att-Comp-Int	381-213-14	396-215-16
Average Per Pass	6.9	6.3
Average Per Catch	12.4	11.7
Average Per Game	203.4	193.0
TDs Passing	10	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	4452	4123
Total Plays	873	847
Average Per Play	5.1	4.9
Average Per Game	342.5	317.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	54-1096	65-1213
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	32-295	21-108
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-162	14-319

TEAM STATISTICS	PITT	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	20.3	18.7
PUNT RETURN AVG.	9.2	5.1
INT RETURN AVG.	10.1	22.8
FUMBLES-LOST	23-13	18-8
PENALTIES-YARDS	57-440	73-624
Average Per Game	33.8	48.0
PUNTS-YARDS	63-2525	72-2929
Average Per Punt	40.1	40.7
Net punt average	37.1	35.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:22	28:38
3RD-DOWN CONV.	63/181	64/187
3rd-Down Pct.	35%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	13/19	8/19
4th-Down Pct.	68%	42%
SACKS BY-YARDS	33-229	32-177
MISC YARDS	52	-3
TDS SCORED	42	35
FG-ATTEMPTS	20-24	13-20
PAT-ATTEMPTS	38-38	30-34
ATTENDANCE	296113	271254
Games/Avg Per Game	6/49352	6/45209
Neutral Site Games		1/49037

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Pittsburgh	79	88	51	122	12	352
Opponent	54	91	78	47	9	279

four starters from an offensive line that paved the way for McCoy's back-to-back 1,000-yard rushing seasons.

Junior Jason Pinkston will start at left tackle for the second season while Joe Thomas, who has 27 career starts, will line up on the right side. Senior John Malecki enters his second season as the starter at right guard after moving from defensive tackle. Center Robb Houser is back after suffering a late-season ankle fracture.

Pitt fields one of the best defensive-end tandems in the country in juniors Greg Romeus and Jabaal Sheard. Romeus, a former basketball prospect, played only one year of high school football but was a second-team all-conference selection as a redshirt sophomore after compiling 15.5 tackles, including 7.5 sacks.

Steve Dell, a fifth-year senior who has been hampered by knee problems, figures to get the first shot at replacing the All-American McKillop at middle linebacker. Senior Shane Murray, who started at the weakside position in 2007 before missing parts of last year due to a knee injury, is expected to return.

Sophomore Greg Williams is the only returning starter at linebacker, having made a successful transition from tailback. Once considered a bruising successor to McCoy, he filled in admirably for the injured Adam Gunn and recorded 47 tackles and 3.5 sacks.

Gunn, a starter in 2007, has been granted a sixth year of eligibility by the NCAA, and should be a pleasant comeback story after breaking his neck in a helmet-to-helmet collision with McKillop in last year's season opener against Bowling Green.

The Pitt secondary, which picked off 16 passes in '08, returns virtually intact.

Three-year starter Aaron Berry, a second-team All-Big East performer last season, had a team-high 10 pass breakups and three interceptions last year.

The Panthers might have an easier time replacing McCoy and McKillop than Conor Lee, who graduated as the most accurate kicker in Pitt history. During his career, Lee converted 83.3 percent of his field goals and 100 percent of his extra points.

The team must also replace Dave Brytus, a two-year starter at punter.

Candidates at kicker are redshirt freshman Kevin Harper, junior Dan Hutchins and junior Luke Briggs, who lettered last year.

RECRUITING REPORT

Dave Wannstedt finally got some of his critics off his back after guiding the Panthers to the postseason, and he hopes this class is the foundation for future success. Pitt has a nice recruiting base in western Pennsylvania, but also branched out into states such as New Jersey.

Pitt had the most success at running back. They are looking for LeSean McCoy's replacement and signed five prospects in the hopes of finding it. Four-star standout **Raymond Graham** is the most talented of the incoming running backs.

At 6-3, 200 pounds, **Todd Thomas** is an impressive wide receiver, and four talented offensive linemen round out the core of the offensive prospects in this class.

On defense, four-star defensive end **Jack Lippert** and four-star linebacker **Dan Mason** are the headliners.

This is not Wannstedt's best recruiting class since moving to the college ranks, but it should provide quality depth to the offense.

—Mike Farrell, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *JONATHAN BALDWIN, WR*

A top-50 recruit in 2008, Baldwin caught 18 passes for 404 yards as a true freshman. With the departure of All-Big East wide receiver Derek Kinder, he has 1,000-yard potential.

2 WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS

NOEL DEVINE ▸ RB

JOE ROBBINS

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Liberty	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.12	**East Carolina**	**3-24**
One of the most stunning upsets of the 2008 season, the Pirates must travel to Morgantown to prove the win—and their season—was no fluke.		
S.19	@AUBURN	34-17
0.1	Colorado	14-17 (OT)
0.10	@SYRACUSE	17-6
0.17	Marshall	27-3
0.24	Connecticut	35-13
0.30	@SOUTH FLORIDA	13-7
N.7	Louisville	35-21
N.13	@CINCINNATI	23-26 (OT)
N.27	Pittsburgh	15-19
D.5	@RUTGERS	24-17

BOWL PROJECTION
» GATOR BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Mountaineers have experienced defense and top rusher in Noel Devine.
- Green offensive line could be team's downfall.

After three 11-win seasons, the Mountaineers won "only" nine games in Bill Stewart's first full year as coach. And now they must replace quarterback Pat White, the most dangerous offensive weapon in Big East history save Syracuse's Donovan McNabb.

The Mountaineers entered last season as a popular pick to win the national title, having captured the Big East crown four times in five seasons and ranking as one of just four schools to finish in the top 10 in the final *Associated Press* rankings each of the last three seasons.

Instead, they dug a hole by losing early nonconference games at East Carolina and Colorado and face those teams in the first two months again this season, albeit at home, split up by a road date at Auburn.

Even with the tough out-of-conference slate and the loss of White, a return to 11-win form is within reach for a program that has become one of the nation's most consistent. The team's 50-13 record ranks as the ninth best over the last five seasons.

Unlike last year, when the Mountaineers had questions in August surrounding the defense, it's the offense that is reloading this time around.

After being White's backup the past four seasons, Jarrett Brown finally gets his shot. Like White, he's a dual-threat quarterback, capable of taking off at any time.

Noel Devine, one of West Virginia's biggest recruits two years ago, could emerge as a Heisman Trophy candidate after rushing for 1,289 yards on 206 carries as a sophomore and an eye-popping 6.3 yards per carry.

Though the Mountaineers finished second in the Big East in rushing offense, they struggled in short-yardage situations, an area offensive coordinator Jeff Mullen focused on during the spring. Fullback Will Johnson, who was hampered by a thigh bruise last season, should help if healthy.

Wide receiver Alric Arnett led the Mountaineers in receiving yards (466) as a junior while finishing second in touchdowns (6) and receptions (35). With the return of All-Big East second-team performer Jock Sanders uncertain after a DUI arrest, converted quarterback Bradley Starks (17 catches, 168 yards) is the only other receiver with significant experience. Freshman Logan Heastie is a four-star recruit who enrolled a

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Jarrett Brown	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	9	109.59	22-30-1	73.3	114	1	12.7

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Noel Devine	13	206	1289	6.3	4	99.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Alric Arnett	13	35	466	13.3	6	35.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
J.T. Thomas	13	23	42	65

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
J.T. Thomas	13	10.0	46

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Brandon Hogan	3	61	20.3	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
Big East: 5-2
(beat North Carolina in the Meineke Car Care Bowl, 31-30)

Coach: Bill Stewart
2nd year (10-4)
Career record: 10-4
Offensive coordinator:
Jeff Mullen (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Jeff Casteel (8th year)

Stadium: Mountaineer Field at Milan Puskar Stadium (60,000)
Tickets: 800-WVU-GAME
Site: Morgantown, W.Va.
Official athletic Web site:
www.msnsportsnet.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	16	Jarrett Brown (6-4, 221, Sr.)
	8	Coley White (6-0, 174, Fr.)
FB	6	Will Johnson (6-2, 232, Jr.)
	41	Ricky Kovatch (6-2, 239, So.)
RB	7	Noel Devine (5-8, 175, Jr.)
	23	Mark Rodgers (5-8, 174, So.)
LOT	64	Don Barclay (6-4, 298, So.)
	58	Levi Pardee (6-6, 302, Fr.)
LOG	77	Josh Jenkins (6-3, 298, So.)
	65	Chad Snodgrass (6-4, 291, So.)
C	61	Eric Jobe (6-2, 284, Jr.)
	56	Gino Gradkowski (6-3, 292, So.)
ROG	59	Matt Timmerman (6-3, 282, Jr.)
	57	Jeffrey Braun (6-4, 307, Fr.)
ROT	66	Selvish Capers (6-5, 298, Sr.)
	67	Jon Walko (6-6, 289, Sr.)
TE	89	Tyler Urban (6-5, 244, So.)
	88	Tyler Rader (6-3, 252, So.)
WR	82	Alric Arnett (6-2, 187, Sr.)
	4	Wes Lyons (6-8, 231, Sr.)
WR	14	Bradley Starks (6-3, 188, So.)
	2	Logan Heastie (6-2, 192, Fr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	93	Scooter Berry (6-1, 280, Jr.)
	91	Jorge Wright (6-2, 270, Fr.)
NT	90	Chris Neild (6-2, 298, Jr.)
	94	Joshua Taylor (6-1, 263, So.)
RDE	97	Julian Miller (6-4, 248, So.)
	92	Larry Ford (6-3, 255, Jr.)
SLB	57	Zac Cooper (6-3, 230, Sr.)
	52	Najae Goode (6-1, 231, So.)
MLB	47	Reed Williams (6-1, 228, r-Sr.)
	45	Anthony Leonard (6-1, 240, Jr.)
WLB	30	J.T. Thomas (6-2, 224, Jr.)
	49	Ovid Goulbourne (6-1, 230, Sr.)
LCB	22	Brandon Hogan (5-10, 188, Jr.)
	10	Guesly Dervil (5-11, 188, Sr.)
RCB	38	Keith Tandy (5-10, 198, So.)
	17	Kent Richardson (5-11, 190, Sr.)
FS	28	Robert Sands (6-0, 211, So.)
	24	Eain Smith (5-11, 200, So.)
SS	11	Sidney Glover (5-11, 210, Jr.)
	12	Nate Sowers (6-1, 208, Sr.)
S	20	Boogie Allen (6-1, 193, Sr.)
	27	Courtney Stuart (6-2, 210, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	14	Tyler Bitancurt (6-1, 188, Fr.)
P	37	Scott Kozlowski (5-11, 191, Sr.)

semester early and could contribute immediately.

The Mountaineers must rebuild an offensive line that ranked among the nation's best last year with all-conference performers Ryan Stanchek and Mike Dent, who both departed. Only two starters return in Selvish Capers and Eric Jobe, who started the final five games after Dent went down with a neck injury.

Sophomore Josh Jenkins played the first five games of last season until suffering a knee injury. He'll start at left guard. Sophomore Don Barclay played in all 13 games and will fill the left-tackle post. Junior Matt Timmerman projects as the starter at right guard, though freshmen Jeffrey Braun and Joe Madsen also figure in the mix.

For all of the talk about West Virginia's high-powered offense, the defense drew some accolades last year, ranking No. 1 in the Big East in scoring defense and 11th nationally.

Scooter Berry anchors the defensive line. A second-team All-Big East selection as a sophomore, the end finished with 5.5 tackles for loss. Nose tackle Chris Neild is the other returning starter after collecting 47 tackles last year, the most among the team's defensive linemen. Junior Larry Ford and sophomore Julian Miller were effective in reserve roles as ends and one will start in '09.

The linebacking corps will have to rebound from the graduation loss of Mortty Ivy, a first-team all-conference performer. Reed Williams, the starting middle linebacker in 2007 and MVP of the 2008 Fiesta Bowl, returns after redshirting to deal with extended rehab from double-shoulder surgery.

Junior J.T. Thomas returns at weakside linebacker, bidding to become a second-generation All-Big East linebacker; his father, J.T. Sr., earned such honors as a senior in 1995. Anthony Leonard, who filled in at middle linebacker in Williams' absence, will try to retain his position.

Junior Brandon Hogan (3 INTs) is back at cornerback after missing the bowl game against North Carolina with an unspecified personal matter. Sophomore Keith Tandy, who filled in for Hogan in that game, is the leading candidate to fill the other spot vacated by Ellis Lankster.

The toughest shoes to fill will be those of Pat McAfee, who graduated after handling all of the kicking duties for the past two seasons. It will take at least two players to replace him. Freshman Tyler Bitancurt is the front-runner at kicker. Scott Kozlowski is likely to take over on punts and kickoffs.

RECRUITING REPORT

West Virginia had arguably its best recruiting class in history under coach Bill Stewart in 2009, ranking first in the Big East by a wide margin and just outside of the national top 25.

The offense dominates this class, led by quarterback **Eugene Smith,** wide receivers **Stedman Bailey, Logan Heastie** and **Deon Long** and running back **Tavon Austin.** Smith has good size at 6-3 and 182 pounds, and he can move as well.

On the defensive side of the ball, junior-college defensive end **Tevita Finau** could be an instant-impact player with his 6-5, 275-pound frame. Four talented defensive backs fill needs, and athlete **Brodrick Jenkins** is yet another versatile pick from Florida.

This class will be key for Stewart and his hope to make a run at a national title.

—Mike Farrell, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *LOGAN HEASTIE, WR*

The heralded 6-2 true freshman will get an opportunity to play and has the explosive talents and makeup to thrive quickly.

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	WVU	OPP
SCORING	319	221
Points Per Game	24.5	17.0
FIRST DOWNS	237	249
Rushing	134	109
Passing	86	124
Penalty	17	16
RUSHING YARDAGE	2729	1711
Yards gained rushing	3029	2029
Yards lost rushing	300	318
Rushing Attempts	517	475
Average Per Rush	5.3	3.6
Average Per Game	209.9	131.6
TDs Rushing	15	15
PASSING YARDAGE	1956	2565
Att-Comp-Int	305-202-8	428-240-17
Average Per Pass	6.4	6.0
Average Per Catch	9.7	10.7
Average Per Game	150.5	197.3
TDs Passing	22	11
TOTAL OFFENSE	4685	4276
Total Plays	822	903
Average Per Play	5.7	4.7
Average Per Game	360.4	328.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	41-881	53-1484
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	28-221	23-121
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	17-235	8-36

TEAM STATISTICS	WVU	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.5	28.0
PUNT RETURN AVG.	7.9	5.3
INT RETURN AVG.	13.8	4.5
FUMBLES-LOST	20-8	21-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	59-535	77-662
Average Per Game	41.2	50.9
PUNTS-YARDS	62-2772	64-2609
Average Per Punt	44.7	40.8
Net punt average	40.5	35.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:03	30:57
3RD-DOWN CONV.	74/177	79/188
3rd-Down Pct.	42%	42%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/13	7/22
4th-Down Pct.	31%	32%
SACKS BY-YARDS	25-161	18-109
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	38	27
FG-ATTEMPTS	17-20	11-18
PAT-ATTEMPTS	36-36	24-24
ATTENDANCE	406593	233308
Games/Avg Per Game	7/58085	5/46662
Neutral Site Games		1/73712

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
West Virginia	70	67	101	78	3	319
Opponent	81	70	21	40	9	221

3 SOUTH FLORIDA BULLS

The South Florida football program, still in only its 13th year of existence, continues to tantalize. In each of the last two seasons, the Bulls have shot up to a top-10 ranking, only to plummet in the second half of the season.

With eccentric coach Jim Leavitt focusing his recruiting efforts within the talent-rich Sunshine State, the Bulls have the makings of a perennial Top 25 program.

Their best shot at a top-10 finish, however, could be this season.

That's because they return the Big East's best offensive and defensive players in quarterback Matt Grothe and end George Selvie.

Their performances this year will go a long way toward determining the fate of the Bulls, who finished a disappointing sixth in the Big East last season.

Grothe is a scrambling, dual-threat gunslinger with Brett Favre's flair for the dramatic and tendency toward untimely interceptions. Grothe should benefit from the promotion of wide receivers coach Mike Canales, who will run a more pure version of the spread offense as the new offensive coordinator.

Running back Mike Ford has dropped 20 pounds from last season and projects as the starter, though senior Moise Plancher is also in the mix.

The offensive line returns just one starter, junior Zach Hermann. Jacob Sims, the only other definitive starter, will play either center or left tackle.

Canales' adjustments should mean more passes to the receivers. Junior return man Dontavia Bogan (26 catches) is a star waiting to happen at the position. Jessie Hester, A.J. Love, Ed Alcin and Carlton Mitchell give the Bulls one of the conference's better collections of receivers.

New defensive coordinator Joe Tresey replaces the popular Wally Burnham, who left for Iowa State.

Tresey has retained the 4-3 but added some different looks. Selvie is back after an '08 season that didn't live up to his sophomore All-America campaign, when he had 14.5 sacks. He faced constant double teams last season and has struggled to put on weight but plans to be at 255 pounds by the fall.

The Bulls have experience on the defensive line with tackles Aaron Harris and Terrell McClain and end Craig Marshall.

For the first time in years, the Bulls do not return a corps of accomplished linebackers, though Kion Wilson established himself in the middle last year as a transfer.

Chris Robinson is listed as the starter on the strong side, though Donte Spires will challenge that call. Sabbath Joseph has a stronger hold on the weakside position.

Reliable senior Nate Allen is an all-conference candidate at free safety and sophomore Jerrell Young will take over at strong safety.

With Grothe and Selvie returning to a wide-open Big East, a repeat of last season's 2-5 conference showing would be a major disappointment, especially with Leavitt now the conference's highest-paid coach.

GEORGE SELVIE DE

BRAD SCHLOSS / ICON SMI

THE NEXT BIG THING

DONTAVIA BOGAN, WR

Second in the Big East in kickoff-return average (26.6 yards) in '08, Bogan should play a bigger role in the spread offense as a junior.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
Big East: 2-5
(beat Memphis in the St. Petersburg Bowl, 41-14)

Coach: Jim Leavitt
13th year (87-52)
Career record: 87-52
Offensive coordinator:
Mike Canales (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Joe Tresey (1st year)

Stadium: Raymond James Stadium (65,857)
Tickets: 813-974-3002
Site: Tampa, Fla.
Official athletic Web site:
www.gousfbulls.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

'04	4
'05	6
'06	9
'07	9
'08	8

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Wofford	
S.12	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	
S.19	Charleston Southern	
S.26	@FLORIDA STATE	
0.3	@SYRACUSE	45-13
0.15	Cincinnati	10-24
0.24	@PITTSBURGH	21-26
0.30	West Virginia	7-13
N.12	@RUTGERS	16-49
N.21	Louisville	20-24
N.28	Miami (FL)	
D.5	@CONNECTICUT	17-13

GAME TO WATCH
S.26 @FLORIDA STATE
The Bulls believe they belong among in-state powers Florida State, Florida and Miami. This game will show if that's true.

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» MEINEKE CAR CARE BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» There's talent and experience with Matt Grothe and George Selvie. But can the Bulls ever break through?

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	8	Matt Grothe (6-0, 205, Sr.)
RB	26	Mike Ford (6-2, 225, Jr.)
LOT	64	Jacob Sims (6-5, 285, Jr.)
LOG	79	Chaz Hine (6-4, 292, So.)
C	62	Sampson Genus (6-1, 314, Jr.)
ROG	61	Zach Hermann (6-3, 313, Jr.)
ROT	74	Mark Popek (6-7, 305, Fr.)
TE	82	Ben Busbee (6-3, 242, Sr.)
WR	2	Carlton Mitchell (6-4, 212, Jr.)
WR	81	Dontavia Bogan (6-1, 183, Jr.)
WR	6	Ed Alcin (6-2, 185, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	94	Craig Marshall (6-5, 260, Jr.)
LDT	98	Aaron Harris (6-4, 270, Sr.)
RDT	97	Terrell McClain (6-3, 306, Jr.)
RDE	95	George Selvie (6-4, 255, Sr.)
SLB	49	Chris Robinson (6-3, 245, Sr.)
MLB	42	Kion Wilson (6-2, 235, Sr.)
WLB	43	Sabbath Joseph (6-0, 230, Jr.)
LCB	2	Quenton Washington (5-10, 183, So.)
RCB	3	Jerome Murphy (6-1, 185, Sr.)
FS	5	Nate Allen (6-2, 206, Sr.)
SS	1	Jerrell Young (6-2, 194, So.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	28	Maikon Bonani (5-9, 174, So.)
P	25	Delbert Alvarado (6-0, 209, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Ryne Giddins
DE, 6-4, 235
Giddins should terrorize quarterbacks at South Florida with his giant frame and 4.6-second time in the 40-yard dash.

2 — Jason Pierre-Paul
DE, 6-6, 265
Pierre-Paul will be a tremendous bookend and is college-ready because of his experience at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas.

3 — Kyrhi Thornton
DT, 6-3, 300
Thornton is a huge defensive tackle who will be an anchor in the middle and complement Giddins and Pierre-Paul well.

4 — Bradley Battles
ATH, 5-9, 179
Battles will get his first look at running back, but he could also be a slot receiver or a defensive back.

5 — Adaris Bellamy
RB, 5-9, 214
Bellamy is a big, bruising running back who moves the chains. He has stamina and his physical running style will be welcome at USF.

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS 4

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.7	**Cincinnati**	**10-13**
The Bearcats will provide a huge test for the Scarlet Knights' reloaded offense and secondary.		
S.12	Howard	
S.19	Florida International	
S.26	@MARYLAND	
O.3	Texas Southern	
O.16	Pittsburgh	54-34
O.23	@ARMY	30-3
O.31	@CONNECTICUT	12-10
N.12	South Florida	49-16
N.21	@SYRACUSE	35-17
N.27	@LOUISVILLE	63-14
D.5	West Virginia	17-24

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» ST. PETERSBURG BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» Veteran offensive line provides stability.

» Who will replace stars at quarterback and wide receiver?

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Jabu Lovelace (6-2, 215, Sr.)
FB	19	Jack Corcoran (6-1, 230, Sr.)
RB	8	Kordell Young (5-9, 185, Jr.)
LOT	75	Anthony Davis (6-6, 325, Jr.)
LOG	60	Caleb Ruch (6-4, 285, So.)
C	61	Ryan Blaszczyk (6-4, 295, Sr.)
ROG	77	Art Forst (6-8, 310, So.)
ROT	78	Kevin Haslam (6-7, 295, Sr.)
TE	3	Shamar Graves (6-3, 230, Jr.)
WR	2	Tim Brown (5-8, 165, Sr.)
WR	18	Julian Hayes (6-1, 215, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	31	George Johnson (6-4, 260, Sr.)
LDT	96	Charlie Noonan (6-2, 265, Jr.)
RDT	48	Blair Bines (6-2, 260, Sr.)
RDE	45	Alex Silvestro (6-4, 250, Jr.)
SLB	50	Antonio Lowery (6-2, 225, Jr.)
MLB	44	Ryan D'Imperio (6-3, 240, Sr.)
WLB	17	Damaso Munoz (6-0, 215, Sr.)
LCB	35	Billy Anderson (6-0, 185, Sr.)
RCB	21	Devin McCourty (5-11, 185, Sr.)
FS	29	Zaire Kitchen (6-2, 215, Sr.)
SS	26	Joe Lefeged (6-1, 200, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	1	San San Te (5-9, 180, So.)
P	93	Teddy Dellaganna (6-2, 210, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
Big East: 5-2
(beat N.C. State in the Papajohns.com Bowl, 29-23)
Coach: Greg Schiano
9th year (46-51)
Career record: 46-51
Offensive coordinators:
Kirk Ciarrocca (1st year)
Kyle Flood (1st year)
Defensive coordinators:
Bob Fraser (1st year)
Ed Pinkham (1st year)
Stadium: Rutgers Stadium (42,000)
Tickets: 866-445-GORU
Site: Piscataway, N.J.
Official athletic Web site:
www.scarletknights.com

KORDELL YOUNG » RB

JIM O'CONNOR / US PRESSWIRE

5-YEAR WINS TREND

'04	4
'05	7
'06	11
'07	8
'08	8

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

The emergence of Rutgers as a national football power was supposed to end last season following the departure of running back Ray Rice and, indeed, the Scarlet Knights began the year 1-5.

Then they rattled off seven consecutive wins, finishing with a 5-2 Big East record and a victory in the Papajohns.com Bowl. The Scarlet Knights are one of just nine teams from a BCS conference to win three bowls in each of the last three seasons. They return eight starters on offense, including the entire offensive line, and six regulars on defense.

Recovering from the departure of Rice, however, might prove easier than replacing the most successful quarterback in school history (Mike Teel) and a pair of wide receivers (Kenny Britt and Tiquan Underwood) who combined for 1,865 yards and 12 touchdowns last season.

Still, in a wide-open Big East, Rutgers has a shot at the title, especially since they're unlikely to get off to a 1-5 start against an early schedule that includes Howard, Florida International and Texas Southern.

Replacing Teel and his 9,378 career passing yards will be difficult, but the Knights have options. Coach Greg Schiano listed seniors Jabu Lovelace and Domenic Natale as the co-starters in the spring, but redshirt freshman D.C. Jefferson could emerge by fall. A top-five quarterback when he came out of Winter Haven, Fla., a year ago, the 6-6, 240-pound Jefferson could get the first shot at succeeding Teel.

The top four running backs return, including redshirt junior Kordell Young, who made a strong return last season after returning from ACL surgery, rushing for a team-high 554 yards and five touchdowns in just eight games. Young will fight for carries with Jourdan Brooks (516 yards, 100 carries) and Joe Martinek (404, 76).

With Britt and Underwood in the NFL and Dennis Campbell recently dismissed from the team, Tim Brown is the only returning wideout who hauled in a touchdown last season. The senior caught 27 passes for 565 yards for a team-high 20.9 yards per catch. The need for bodies at wide receiver was so dire that Schiano moved tailback Mason Robinson there.

Rutgers returns all five starters on an offensive line that paved the way for a combined 1,664 yards on the ground and 3,515 through the air. Leading the unit is second-team All-Big East selection Anthony Davis at left tackle.

The Knights must rebuild a defense that accounted for 35 percent of the tackles, 40 percent of the sacks and 50 percent of the interceptions. Leading the line will be end George Johnson, who recorded 10 tackles for loss in '08. Alex Silvestro will move from tackle to the other end position.

Ryan D'Imperio, a second-team all-conference pick who ranked fifth in the Big East with 93 tackles, anchors the linebacking corps.

In the secondary, Zaire Kitchen and Joe Lefeged are top-notch safeties.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Tom Savage
QB, 6-4, 217
Perhaps Rutgers' most touted recruit in the history of the school, Savage has prototypical size and a great arm.

2 — De'Antwan Williams
RB, 5-6, 185
Williams will have to prove his durability in the college ranks, but there is no doubting his quickness.

3 — Isaac Holmes
DT, 6-3, 295
The Hoboken, N.J., defensive tackle is the best of Rutgers' in-state recruits.

4 — Logan Ryan
CB, 5-11, 175
As a senior at Voorhees (N.J.) Eastern High, Ryan rushed for 836 yards and eight touchdowns and passed for 1,113 yards.

5 — Antwan Lowery
DT, 6-4, 335
Once Lowery hits the weight room, he could be scary. The lineman had an offer list that would make many prospects ranked above him blush.

THE NEXT BIG THING

D.C. JEFFERSON, QB

With an imposing build (6-6, 240 pounds), the former top recruit out of Winter Haven, Fla., could step in as Mike Teel's signal-calling successor.

5 CINCINNATI BEARCATS

Cincinnati was perhaps the Big East's biggest surprise in 2008. In just his second season, coach Brian Kelly guided the Bearcats to a Big East championship (as they won six of their final seven conference games) and a BCS bowl.

But after an Orange Bowl loss to Virginia Tech, Cincinnati returns just eight starters, with only one on defense. That doesn't include All-America punter Kevin Huber. Since they're starting from scratch on defense, it's probably not the worst time to switch from a 4-3 alignment to a 3-4, which they will operate at times under new defensive coordinator Bob Diaco.

It's not that the Bearcats' defense was bad last season. They ranked 31st nationally in total defense, allowing 321.9 yards per game and finished 19th in run defense (115.0 yards per game) while leading the Big East in sacks with 2.86 an outing.

But Kelly believes the 3-4 is more conducive to defending against the growing trend of spread offenses throughout college football.

The Bearcats must rebuild a defense that lost three first-team Big East players in lineman Connor Barwin, cornerback Mike Mickens and safety Brandon Underwood. Safety Aaron Webster is the lone returning starter. Though he didn't crack the lineup until the fifth game, Webster finished sixth on the team in tackles, recording 13 in a key overtime win at West Virginia.

The Bearcats might have two former quarterbacks on the defense. Craig Carey was switched to defensive end last year and Demetrius Jones is making the transition to linebacker.

Diaco is likely to give some time to Kelly's more recent recruits, including cornerback Dominique Battle, linebacker J.K. Schaffer and defensive tackle Derek Wolfe.

Offensively, the Bearcats averaged a modest 25.9 points and 370.6 yards per game, a big drop-off from 2007. That's what happens when injuries necessitate the use of five quarterbacks. Plus, the running game never lived up to expectations.

This year, the Bearcats are one of the few teams in the Big East that begin play with an established quarterback in senior Tony Pike, who has the skills to be the best passer in the league. A backup until last year, Pike took over in the second week after Dustin Grutza got hurt. Pike threw for 19 touchdowns and 2,407 yards despite battling injuries of his own.

The Bearcats must replace two second-team all-conference performers in wide receiver Dominick Goodman and tackle Trevor Canfield. Pike has a deep corps of receivers, including Mardy Gilyard, a first-team All-Big East player last season, along with Marcus Barnett, D.J. Woods and Armon Binns. He also has two quality tight ends in Ben Guidugli and Kazeem Alli. Veteran tackle Jeff Linkenbach and center Chris Jurek anchor the offensive line.

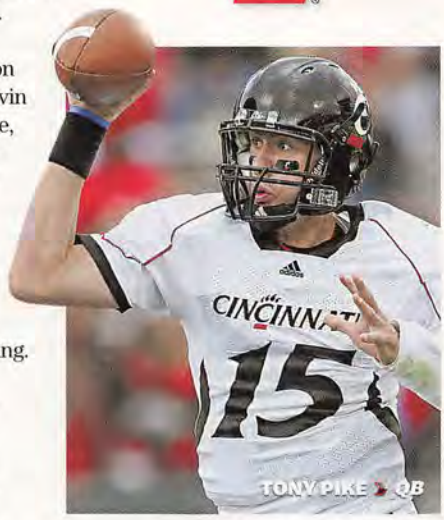
The no-huddle spread offense could get a boost from the development of young running backs Isaiah Pead and Darrin Williams. They will learn from starter Jacob Ramsey until they are game-ready.

Pead could have the biggest upside, having averaged 6.5 yards per carry in limited action last season.

THE NEXT BIG THING

ISAIAH PEAD, RB

A huge recruit in 2008 who chose Cincinnati over West Virginia and Pitt, Pead has big-play ability and the attention of the coaches.



TONY PIKE ▸ QB

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 11-3
Big East: 6-1
(lost to Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl, 20-7)

Coach: Brian Kelly
3rd year (22-6)
Career record: 41-22 (FBS)
Offensive coordinator:
Jeff Quinn (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Bob Diaco (1st year)

Stadium: Nippert Stadium (35,000)
Tickets: 877-CATS-TIX
Site: Cincinnati
Official athletic Web site:
www.gobearcats.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.7	@RUTGERS	13-10
S.12	Southeast Missouri State	
S.19	@OREGON STATE	
S.26	Fresno State	
O.3	@MIAMI (OH)	45-20
O.15	@SOUTH FLORIDA	24-10
O.24	Louisville	28-20
O.31	@SYRACUSE	30-10
N.7	Connecticut	16-40

GAME TO WATCH

N.13 West Virginia 26-23 (OT)

This late-season affair with possible conference title implications will be a rematch of last year's overtime thriller, where the Bearcats won in Morgantown.

N.27	Illinois	
D.5	@PITTSBURGH	28-21

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» INTERNATIONAL BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Offense could return to school-record form of 2007.
» Change in defensive scheme with one starter is a tall order.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Tony Pike (6-6, 210, Sr.)
FB	35	Marcus Waugh (6-0, 270, Sr.)
RB	20	Jacob Ramsey (6-0, 216, Sr.)
LOT	71	Jeff Linkenbach (6-6, 311, Sr.)
LOG	60	Jason Kelce (6-4, 290, Jr.)
C	56	Chris Jurek (6-2, 286, Sr.)
ROG	53	Randy Martinez (6-1, 277, So.)
ROT	68	Craig Parmenter (6-5, 289, So.)
TE	19	Ben Guidugli (6-0, 237, Jr.)
WR	80	Armon Binns (6-4, 200, Jr.)
WR	1	Mardy Gilyard (6-1, 180, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LE	89	Alex Daniels (6-4, 259, Sr.)
DT	90	Ricardo Mathews (6-3, 294, Sr.)
DT	40	John Hughes (6-2, 305, So.)
RE*	98	Curtis Young (6-1, 269, Sr.)
SLB	43	Robby Armstrong (6-2, 222, Jr.)
MLB	50	Andre Revels (6-0, 221, Sr.)
WLB	37	J.K. Schaffer (6-1, 223, So.)
LCB	32	Justin Moore (5-10, 176, So.)
RCB	9	Dominique Battle (6-0, 184, So.)
FS	25	Brad Jones (6-1, 202, Sr.)
SS	17	Aaron Webster (6-2, 211, Sr.)

** Young will play linebacker in 3-4 scheme*

SPECIALISTS

K	97	Jake Rogers (6-3, 205, Jr.)
P	97	Jake Rogers (6-3, 205, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
Jamar Howard
WR, 6-4, 210
The juco wideout from College of the Sequoias has the talent to be a big-time player. He could push for a starting position this fall.

2
Chris Williams
CB, 5-11, 185
Williams is a four-star prospect who turned down a lot of other schools to play for the Bearcats.

3
Jordan Stepp
DT, 6-0, 286
Stepp is a bit vertically challenged, but he has a powerful build and runs the 40-yard dash in an impressive 4.7 seconds.

4
Malik James
CB, 6-1, 190
James has the potential to be an immediate contributor. He has the size coaches love to match up against bigger wide receivers.

5
Josh Jones
WR, 6-1, 205
The local prospect has a strong build and moves well. He could be a problem for defensive coordinators if he gets a mismatch.

DAVID BUTLER II / US PRESSWIRE

CONNECTICUT HUSKIES 6

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@OHIO	
S.12	North Carolina	12-38
S.19	@BAYLOR	31-28
S.26	Rhode Island	
O.10	@PITTSBURGH	10-34
O.17	Louisville	26-21
O.24	@WEST VIRGINIA	13-35
O.31	Rutgers	10-12
GAME TO WATCH		
N.7	@CINCINNATI	40-16
The Huskies blew out the Orange Bowl-bound Bearcats 40-16 at Storrs in 2008.		
N.21	@NOTRE DAME	
N.28	Syracuse	39-14
D.5	South Florida	13-17

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» PAPAJOHNS.COM BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Solid defense as usual, but questions in the passing game remain.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Zach Frazer (6-4, 231, Jr.)
FB	49	Anthony Sherman (5-10, 231, Jr.)
RB	23	Jordan Todman (5-9, 180, So.)
LOT	72	Jimmy Bennett (6-7, 300, Fr.)
LOG	74	Alex LaMagdelaine (6-2, 303, Sr.)
C	57	Moe Petrus (6-2, 276, So.)
ROG	78	Zach Hurd (6-7, 294, Jr.)
ROT	79	Mike Hicks (6-6, 321, Sr.)
TE	93	Derek Chard (6-3, 234, Jr.)
WR	29	Marcus Easley (6-2, 210, SR.)
WR	82	Kashif Moore (5-9, 174, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	9	Lindsey Witten (6-4, 251, Sr.)
LDT	99	Kendall Reyes (6-2, 262, So.)
RDT	4	Tywon Martin (6-1, 265, So.)
RDE	26	Marcus Campbell (6-2, 232, Jr.)
SLB	8	Lawrence Wilson (6-1, 221, Jr.)
MLB	32	Scott Lutrus (6-2, 225, Jr.)
WLB	95	Greg Lloyd (6-1, 234, Jr.)
LCB	42	Robert McClain (5-9, 201, Sr.)
RCB	6	Jasper Howard (5-9, 174, Jr.)
FS	33	Robert Vaughn (6-0, 197, Sr.)
SS	27	Aaron Bagsby (6-1, 185, So.)

SPECIALISTS

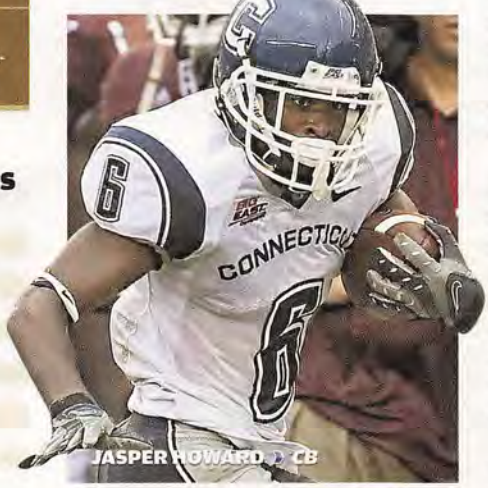
K	38	Dave Teggart (6-0, 214, So.)
P	13	Desi Cullen (6-0, 201, Sr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
Big East: 3-4
(beat Buffalo in the International Bowl, 38-20)

Coach: Randy Edsall
11th year (58-60)
Career record: 58-60
Offensive coordinator:
Joe Moorhead (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Toll Orlando (5th year)

Stadium: Rentschler Field (40,000)
Tickets: 877-288-2666
Site: Storrs
Official athletic Web site:
www.uconnhuskies.com



CHRISTOPHER SZAGOLA / CSM / ZUMA

5-YEAR WINS TREND

'04	8
'05	5
'06	4
'07	9
'08	7

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

In a conference full of upstart programs, Connecticut is perhaps the most remarkable story. Still only in their eighth year of Football Bowl Subdivision competition, the Huskies are coming off a season in which they blew out eventual conference champion Cincinnati and appeared in a second straight bowl game.

Expectations have become so lofty around Storrs that last year's 8-5 season, capped by a win over Buffalo in the International Bowl, was viewed as a disappointment, even with now-departed tailback Donald Brown collecting all sorts of accolades.

So as coach Randy Edsall embarks on his 11th season, he'll have to maintain the program's success while replacing the school's best-ever player (Brown), along with left tackle William Beatty, defensive end Cody Brown and cornerback Darius Butler, all of whom were NFL draft selections.

As usual, the Huskies will look to bring their passing game to the level of their running attack. That's been an issue ever since quarterback Dan Orlovsky's final season in 2004.

New offensive coordinator Joe Moorhead has installed a no-huddle attack with more emphasis on the passing game. Like most Big East programs, the Huskies must also break in a new quarterback. Tyler Lorenzen missed four games due to injury in '08, which allowed sophomore Cody Endres and junior Zach Frazer to each started a pair of games.

Tailback Andre Dixon was part of a double-barreled running attack with Brown in '07, but didn't factor last season. He'll have to hold off Jordan Todman, who gained 296 yards last season as a freshman.

The Huskies are experienced at wide receiver. Sophomore Kashif Moore led the team in receptions (27) and improved as the season progressed. Senior Marcus Easley saw considerable playing time while classmate Brad Kanuch struggled through an injury, but entered spring ball healthy.

The offensive line must replace Beatty and center Keith Gray. Senior Alex LaMagdelaine played in one game last year before being shut down by a shoulder injury, but returns to play left guard. Mike Hicks comes back at right tackle. UConn also returns both Zach Hurd and Moe Petrus, a Freshman All-American last year.

The Huskies ranked sixth in total defense a year ago but must replace five starters, including defensive ends Brown and Julius Williams. They do have experience at the position with senior Lindsey Witten and junior Marcus Campbell, who were both part of the regular rotation. Despite losing longtime starter Rob Lunn at defensive tackle, the Huskies have a pair of sophomores back in Tywon Martin and Kendall Reyes.

Scott Lutrus moved from outside to middle linebacker and became a disruptive force in '08, leading the team with 106 tackles and earning second-team all-conference honors.

Safety Robert Vaughn started all 13 games last year and was third on the team with 67 tackles.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Dwayne Difton
WR, 5-11, 166
Difton might not be the kind of guy who earns all-conference honors right away, but he has that kind of potential.

2 — Steve Greene
OG, 6-4, 302
Greene has the size and physicality to push for a position on the depth chart early on.

3 — Malik Generett
WR, 6-4, 197
Given his outstanding height, Generett has the potential to be a go-to guy down the road.

4 — Trevardo Williams
DE, 6-3, 210
Though Williams needs to gain weight, he has the instincts, tenacity and tackling ability to be a big-time playmaker.

5 — Marcus Aiken
WR, 6-1, 175
Aiken is a good all-around receiver who will run crisp routes and catch most of the balls thrown his way.

THE NEXT BIG THING

GERRARD SHEPPARD, WR

The redshirt freshman turned down basketball scholarships from some ACC schools to play Big East football. He played just one year of high school football, but was rated the top receiver in the Baltimore area after scoring 10 TDs as a prep senior.

7 LOUISVILLE CARDINALS

The Cardinals are light-years removed from 2006, when they went 12-1 and won the Big East championship and the Orange Bowl in Bobby Petrino's final season.

Steve Kragthorpe must have figured it would be easy to build on that momentum, but he's just 11-13 with no bowl appearances since coming to Louisville two seasons ago. The Cardinals went 5-2 last fall before dropping their last five games.

Like most of the conference, Louisville will begin the year with an inexperienced quarterback, which is unusual for a team that counted on Hunter Cantwell and Brian Brohm in recent years.

The Cardinals averaged just 376.2 yards of total offense last season—their lowest output since 2002—prompting Kragthorpe to serve as his own offensive coordinator this year. He'll likely turn to either Adam Froman or Justin Burke to succeed Cantwell at quarterback.

Froman, a junior-college All-American, threw for 3,876 yards and 40 touchdowns at Santa Rosa (Calif.) Junior College. Burke, who played in three games for N.C. State in 2007, sat out last season after transferring.

Victor Anderson was named the 2008 Big East Rookie of the Year after rushing for 1,047 yards as a redshirt freshman, averaging 5.7 yards on 183 carries.

Senior wide receiver Scott Long is expected back after tearing his ACL last October and missing spring practice. With Long out for most of last season, junior Doug Beaumont stepped up, leading the Cardinals with 62 receptions for 750 yards and earning second-team all-conference honors.

It's been a long time since the Cardinals entered a season without All-Big East linemen Eric Wood and George Bussey. They do return both tackles in Jeff Adams and Greg Tomczyk. Junior left guard Mark Wetterer is coming off knee surgery and Abdul Kuyateh starts at right guard. At center, redshirt freshman Mario Benavides will replace Wood, a four-year starter.

The Cardinals return seven starters to their 4-3 defense and 11 players who started at some point last season. New coordinator Brent Guy, who spent the last four seasons as Utah State's head coach, has pledged a more attacking style, and he has the talent to implement it.

The strength of the unit is its linebackers, including leading tackler Jon Dempsey, a second-team All-Big East performer at the middle spot. Junior Antwon Canady was sixth on the team in tackles and will assume the weakside position.

The Cardinals must rebuild a defensive line that lost its two starting tackles in Earl Heyman and Adrian Grady.

Sophomore left end Greg Scruggs was thrust into a starting role late in the year as a true freshman and could blossom in '09. L.D. Scott will move to nose tackle.

Louisville must replace three players from the secondary, but returns Johnny Patrick, who has emerged as one of the better cornerbacks in the conference.

THE NEXT BIG THING

BRANDON HEATH, LB

A former top 100 recruit out of south Florida, Heath could be a late bloomer as a junior. He spent the spring as a "rover backer," a new hybrid linebacker/safety position perfect for the former safety.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Indiana State	
S.19	@KENTUCKY	2-27
S.26	@UTAH	

GAME TO WATCH

0.2 Pittsburgh **7-41**

This Big East opener on a Friday night at home should show how much—or if—the Cardinals have rebounded.

0.10	Southern Miss	
0.17	@CONNECTICUT	21-26
0.24	@CINCINNATI	20-28
0.31	Arkansas State	
N.7	@WEST VIRGINIA	21-35
N.14	Syracuse	21-28
N.21	@SOUTH FLORIDA	24-20
N.27	Rutgers	14-63

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Good talent and athleticism.
- Brutal schedule and inexperience will be tough to overcome.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
Big East: 1-6

Coach: Steve Kragthorpe
3rd year (11-13)
Career record: 40-35
Offensive coordinator:
Steve Kragthorpe (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Brent Guy (1st year)

Stadium: Papa John's Cardinal Stadium (42,000)
Tickets: 800-633-7105
Site: Louisville, Ky.
Official athletic Web site:
www.uoflsports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	13	Justin Burke (6-3, 229, Jr.)
RB	20	Victor Anderson (5-9, 185, r-So.)
RB	33	Bilal Powell (6-0, 215, Jr.)
LOT	76	Greg Tomczyk (6-6, 298, Jr.)
LOG	79	Mark Wetterer (6-5, 309, Jr.)
C	60	Mario Benavides (6-4, 290, r-Fr.)
ROG	71	Abdul Kuyateh (6-2, 305, Sr.)
ROT	74	Jeff Adams (6-8, 305, Jr.)
TE	82	Pete Nochta (6-5, 244, Jr.)
WR	27	Doug Beaumont (5-9, 183, Jr.)
WR	84	Scott Long (6-2, 214, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	11	Greg Scruggs (6-4, 250, So.)
LDT	56	Tyler Jessen (6-1, 284, Sr.)
RDT	93	L.D. Scott (6-2, 272, Sr.)
RDE	58	Rodney Gnat (6-3, 253, Jr.)
SLB	5	Brandon Heath (6-1, 212, Jr.)
MLB	38	Jon Dempsey (6-0, 241, Sr.)
WLB	51	Antwon Canady (6-0, 244, Jr.)
LCB	7	Karldell Dunning (6-0, 162, So.)
RCB	19	Johnny Patrick (6-0, 186, Jr.)
FS	2	Richard Raglin (6-2, 202, Sr.)
SS	30	Daniel Covington (5-11, 206, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	17	Tim Dougherty (5-10, 172, Jr.)
P	29	Cory Goettsche (6-1, 222, Sr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
Joe Evinger
OT, 6-7, 340
The Cardinals raided the junior-college ranks to find Evinger. He has the long arms that are ideal for a tackle.

2
Sean Farr
WR, 6-2, 180
Farr runs well, is smooth in the open field, fluid in his motion and turns upfield quickly after catching the ball.

3
Mike Privott
LB, 5-10, 233
Privott doesn't have great speed but does have a motor that won't stop, and he's a sure tackler.

4
Adam Froman
QB, 6-3, 215
Though he is listed as a pro-style quarterback, Froman runs the 40-yard dash in 4.46 seconds and is a run threat.

5
Isaac Geffard
S, 6-2, 186
While he needs to get stronger, coaches think Geffard could make a quick impact for the Cardinals.

ANDY LYONS / GETTY IMAGES

SYRACUSE ORANGE 8

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Minnesota	
S.12	@PENN STATE	13-55
S.19	Northwestern	10-30
S.26	Maine	
GAME TO WATCH		
0.3	**South Florida**	**13-45**
This Big East opener follows a tough nonconference schedule and should be an early indicator of how improved the Orange will be under Doug Marrone.		
0.10	West Virginia	6-17
0.24	Akron	28-42
0.31	Cincinnati	10-30
N.7	@PITTSBURGH	24-34
N.14	@LOUISVILLE	28-21
N.21	Rutgers	17-35
N.28	@CONNECTICUT	14-39

PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Return of Mike Williams and a healthy Delone Carter will help.
- Rebuilding process will start slow.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	4	Cameron Dantley (6-1, 218, Sr.)
FB	48	Carl Cutler (6-1, 234, Fr.)
RB	3	Delone Carter (5-10, 214, Jr.)
LOT	77	Tucker Baumbach (6-5, 307, Jr.)
LOG	70	Ryan Bartholomew (6-3, 290, Jr.)
C	60	Jim McKenzie (6-4, 286, Jr.)
ROG	76	Ian Allport (6-4, 300, r-Fr.)
ROT	73	Jonathan Meldrum (6-5, 303, Jr.)
TE	85	Mike Owen (6-4, 251, Sr.)
WR	11	Lavar Lobdell (6-3, 210, Sr.)
WR	1	Mike Williams (6-2, 204, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	90	Jared Kimmel (6-6, 259, Jr.)
LDT	97	Arthur Jones (6-4, 291, Sr.)
RDT	51	Andrew Lewis (6-3, 282, Jr.)
RDE	54	Mikhail Marinovich (6-4, 232, So.)
SLB	25	Derrell Smith (6-1, 224, Jr.)
MLB	50	Mike Mele (6-0, 218, Jr.)
WLB	46	Parker Cantey (6-3, 218, Jr.)
LCB	26	Kevyn Scott (5-11, 197, So.)
RCB	28	Nico Scott (5-10, 180, Jr.)
FS	35	Michael Holmes (5-11, 185, Jr.)
SS	24	Max Suter (5-11, 190, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	39	Austin Wallis (5-10, 185, Fr.)
P	47	Rob Long (6-4, 175, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 3-9
Big East: 1-6

Coach: Doug Marrone, 1st year
Offensive coordinator: Rob Spence (1st year)
Defensive coordinator: Scott Shafer (1st year)

Stadium: Carrier Dome
Tickets: 888-366-3849
Site: Syracuse, N.Y.
Official athletic Web site: www.suathletics.com

DELONE CARTER / RB

5-YEAR WINS TREND

'04	6
'05	1
'06	4
'07	2
'08	3

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

Doug Marrone has done his best to purge the memories of the Greg Robinson era and connect his alma mater back to the mid-1980s, when the Orange was a winning program.

So he brought back red practice jerseys for the defense, green for the offense and white for the quarterbacks, a tradition instituted by former coach Dick MacPherson. Before spring practice, Robinson recycled another custom: burning a pair of practice shoes to rid the team of bad memories.

Whether the theatrics will translate into more wins for a team that went 10-37 under Robinson remains to be seen. If nothing else, there's excitement among players not seen since perhaps the early days of the Paul Pasqualoni era.

As offensive coordinator and offensive line coach for the New Orleans Saints, Marrone grew accustomed to having elite talent at his disposal. And he has one in wideout Mike Williams, who was suspended last season for academic reasons.

A second-team all-conference selection in 2007, Williams caught at least one touchdown in nine consecutive games and tied a Syracuse record with 60 receptions in a season.

Senior quarterback Cameron Dantley wasn't that impressive as a starter last season, completing just 121 of 251 passes for 11 touchdowns and five interceptions. But he begins the year as one of the Big East's most experienced passers, behind South Florida's Matt Grothe and Cincinnati's Tony Pike.

Injuries have derailed the career of junior Delone Carter, who rushed for 713 yards and earned *Sporting News* Freshman All-America honors in 2006. He dislocated a hip and missed all of 2007 and was hampered by hamstring problems last season, but begins this year as the starter.

Williams will be Dantley's No. 1 target, but the Orange are deep at receiver with Lavar Lobdell and Donte Davis. Senior tight end Mike Owen (19 catches, 2 TDs) is also a reliable target.

The offensive line returns three starters in left tackle Tucker Baumbach, left guard Ryan Bartholomew and center Jim McKenzie. Redshirt freshman Ian Allport and junior Jonathan Meldrum are the projected starters at right guard and right tackle, respectively.

The 4-3 defense is led by nose tackle Arthur Jones, who already ranks among the Orange's all-time greats. The first-team All-Big East selection is sixth on the school's career tackles-for-loss list with 31.5.

Jones stayed for his senior season in part to play with younger brother Chandler, a redshirt freshman who took first-team reps at end and could challenge sophomore Mikhail Marinovich for the position later in the season. The younger Jones could bolster a position that didn't produce in '08.

The Orange has experience at linebacker with Derrell Smith (strong side) and Mike Mele (middle). Junior Parker Cantey is the projected starter on the weak side. Cornerbacks Kevyn Scott and Nico Scott and safeties Max Suter and Michael Holmes all return with experience.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Andrew Tiller
OT, 6-6, 320
Tiller, a nice surprise on National Signing Day, is strong, long and college-ready.

2 — Dale Peterman
CB, 5-10, 155
The Ohio native will need to hit the weight room before he can contribute, but has the speed to excel.

3 — Phillip Thomas
S, 6-0, 178
Thomas runs well and has excellent leaping ability. So expect him to be solid in coverage when he eventually plays.

4 — Rishard Anderson
CB, 6-0, 171
Anderson does not have the game-breaking speed, but he is strong and has good size for a corner.

5 — Torrey Ball
DE, 6-4, 250
This junior-college transfer could contribute immediately. He does have a good motor.

THE NEXT BIG THING

CHANDLER JONES, DE

He's taller and lighter than his brother, Arthur, and likely to break the starting lineup as a redshirt freshman. He could be a chief beneficiary of his brother's double teams.

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

BIG TEN

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1 Ohio State
2 Penn State
3 Michigan State
4 Iowa
5 Illinois
6 Michigan
7 Wisconsin
8 Minnesota
9 Northwestern
10 Purdue
11 Indiana

Look for a tight race, but there won't be any national championship rings

By Michael Bradley, *correspondent*

If you liked the 2008 Big Ten football campaign, then you're going to love the '09 season. Many of the same storylines will be unfolding, and the same hierarchy of teams—with some small adjustments—will be in effect. The one thing that doesn't seem to be an issue this year—for the first time in a while—is no conference team seems likely to make a legitimate run at a spot in the BCS title game. Oh, Penn State's cushy nonconference slate will give it some early buzz, and Ohio State could gather quick momentum by dispatching USC in September, but compared to the nation's bruisers, the Big Ten doesn't measure up.

The conference title tussle appears to be another Ohio State-Penn State affair, since both the Buckeyes and Nittany Lions return their starting quarterbacks and several other playmakers. Of particular interest is the continued development of Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor, who impressed at times during his freshman debut but also struggled throwing the ball.

If there is another challenger for the top spot, it should come from the Michigan State/Iowa pairing. Wisconsin and Illinois will try to recapture past glories after taking steps back in 2008. There will be considerable interest surrounding Minnesota, which opens a new outdoor stadium and tries to erase the ugly memories of the second half of '08. The arrival of new coordinator Kevin Cosgrove will be watched closely, since it was the Gopher defense that absorbed much of the blame for the team's collapse. Another new coach, Danny Hope, who is at the top of the Purdue organizational chart, will try to lift the Boilers out of the second division.

Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez survived a 3-9 campaign and roped in a highly regarded recruiting class. Now, he must find a way for his heralded offensive system to take root in time to keep the agitated Wolverine community from trading him in. Michigan's slide is a big reason for the conference's drop in national esteem, and the quicker Rodriguez can get the Maize-and-Blue back to the top, the better it will be for everybody. Until then, the Big Ten can count on plenty of excitement but not too much in the way of big-time attention.

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Arrelious Benn, WR, Illinois

Best Hands
Eric Decker, WR, Minnesota

Best Passing QB
Darryl Clark, Penn State

Best Running QB
Terrelle Pryor, Ohio State

Most Elusive RB
Evan Royster, Penn State

Best Instincts
Terrelle Pryor, QB, Ohio State

Best Athlete
Arrelious Benn, WR, Illinois

Best Under Pressure
Ricky Stanzi, QB, Iowa

Top NFL Prospect
Sean Lee, LB, Penn State

Top Impact Freshman
Tate Forcier, QB, Michigan

Hardest Hitter
Greg Jones, LB, Michigan State

Biggest Underachiever
Juice Williams, QB, Illinois

Best Home-Field Advantage
Ohio State

Best Fans
Penn State

Best Mascot
Nittany Lion, Penn State

Best Stadium
Kinnick Stadium, Iowa

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

1. OHIO STATE The Buckeyes did their damage in their own back yard, but they went national to get corner Corey Brown.
2. MICHIGAN Big Blue found quarterback Tate Forcier and athlete Jeremy Gallon, among others.
3. MICHIGAN STATE The Spartans surprised many by getting quarterback Andrew Maxwell, who has all the tools to be a star.
4. PENN STATE The Nittany Lions went heavy on the O-line and there are some great ones in this group led by Eric Shrive.
5. ILLINOIS The Illini added a lot of impact players and have budding stars in quarterback Nathan Scheelhasse and receiver Terry Hawthorne.
6. MINNESOTA While this Gopher class isn't as newsworthy as the '08 group, it is a solid, all-around effort by the coaches.
7. WISCONSIN This Badgers class fills holes at almost every position, which is a successful formula in Madison.
8. NORTHWESTERN Quarterback Evan Watkins has the tools to start, tailback Arby Fields was a steal out of California and the offensive-line class is stout.
9. INDIANA The Hoosiers scored two playmakers at quarterback in Dusty Kiel and Edward Wright-Baker.
10. IOWA The Hawkeyes kept star running back Brandon Wegher in the state. Ohio's Brad Rogers has a shot to be a steal as a big, bruising back.
11. PURDUE The Boilermakers longed for more speed, and got it with talent from the Sunshine State.

ASCENDING

MINNESOTA Even though the Gophers fell apart down the stretch last year, they won six more games than in '07 and return a lot of talent.

DESCENDING

WISCONSIN Quarterback problems are the beginning of the worries in Madison, as the talent level appears to have dropped.

ALL-BIG TEN

OFFENSE

QB Darryl Clark, Sr., Penn State
RB Evan Royster, Jr., Penn State
RB John Clay, So., Wisconsin
OL Stefen Wisniewski, Jr., Penn State
OL Bryan Bulaga, Jr., Iowa
OL Stephen Schilling, Jr., Michigan
OL Joel Foreman, So., Michigan State
OL Gabe Carimi, Jr., Wisconsin
TE Garrett Graham, Sr., Wisconsin
WR Eric Decker, Sr., Minnesota
WR Arrelious Benn, Jr., Illinois

DEFENSE

DL Corey Wootton, Sr., Northwestern
DL Jared Odrick, Sr., Penn State
DL Jammie Kirlew, Sr., Indiana
DL Brandon Graham, Sr., Michigan
LB Sean Lee, Sr., Penn State
LB Greg Jones, Jr., Michigan State
LB Navorro Bowman, Jr., Penn State
DB Traye Simmons, Sr., Minnesota
DB Brad Phillips, Sr., Northwestern
DB Kurt Coleman, Sr., Ohio State
DB Amari Spievey, Jr., Iowa

SPECIALISTS

K Philip Welch, So., Wisconsin
P Zoltan Mesko, Sr., Michigan

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 Barring any serious illness, Joe Paterno isn't going anywhere. The Penn State boss has proven he can still coach.

2 Michigan will be improved, as the young Wolverines grasp Rich Rodriguez's system better and become more effective, particularly on offense.

3 Even though Michigan State and Iowa both lost feature backs, each will develop a strong running game that keeps them near the top of the conference.

4 Wisconsin will continue to have quarterback issues throughout the season, resulting in a second-division finish that turns up the heat on Bret Bielema.

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NETWORK
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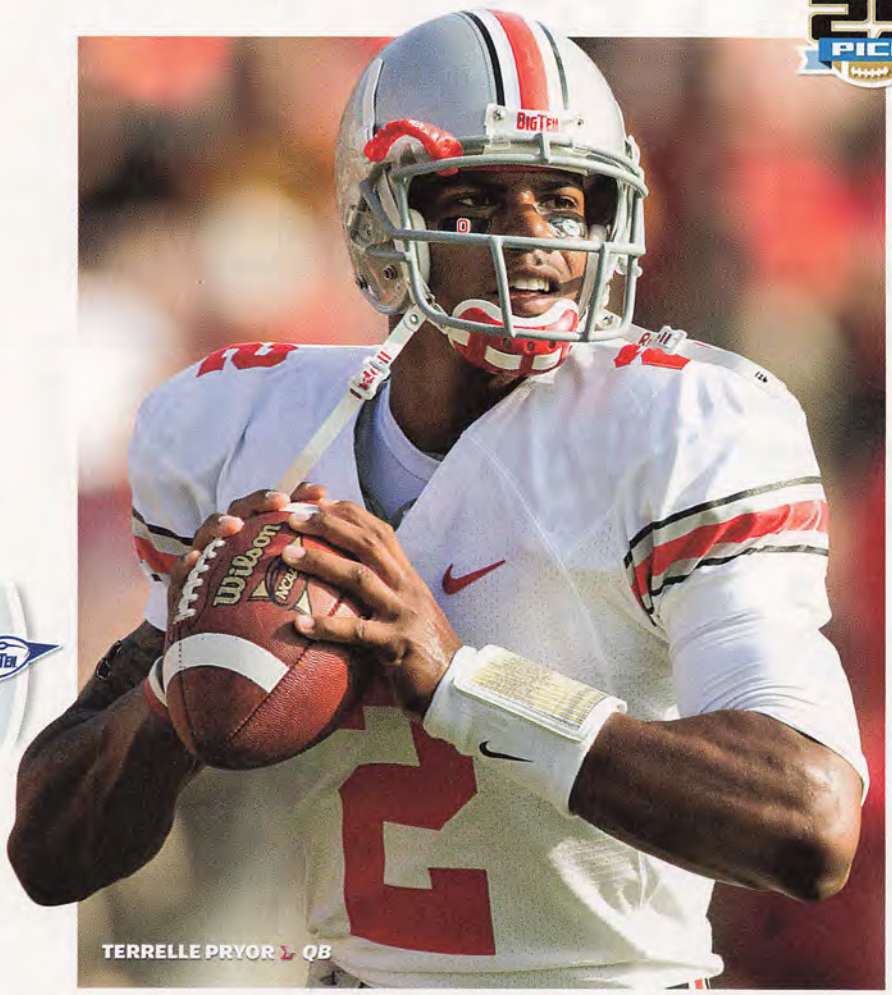
BIG TEN PRESEASON RANK

1 OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

TOP 25 PICK



TERRELLE PRYOR ▸ QB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Navy	

GAME TO WATCH

S.12	USC	3-35

This means nothing in the Big Ten standings, but the Buckeyes need to knock off a strong nonconference foe to gain national respect.

S.19	@TOLEDO*	
S.26	Illinois	30-20
O.3	@INDIANA	
O.10	Wisconsin	20-17
O.17	@PURDUE	16-3
O.24	Minnesota	34-21
O.31	New Mexico State	
N.7	@PENN STATE	6-13
N.14	Iowa	
N.21	@MICHIGAN	42-7

** at Cleveland, OH*

BOWL PROJECTION
» ROSE BOWL

BCS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Has more talent than any other Big Ten team.
- Could be explosive if Pryor emerges as a consistent threat.
- Has the motivation to improve on last season.

There are some who would consider it over the top to take shots at the Buckeyes, who have been the conference's gold standard for much of this decade. They have won or shared the last four conference titles and played in two of the last three BCS National Championship games. But when you establish high standards and don't reach them, people are going to criticize. Just ask Oklahoma.

The Buckeyes had a fine '08 season by most schools' criteria, but their three losses came to top-10 teams and were on the heels of the humbling defeat at the hands of Florida in '07 BCS title game. Ohio State has been good, but it hasn't been able to make a big splash nationally.

Will that change in '09? We'll find out quickly, since USC visits The Horseshoe on Sept. 12 to give OSU a chance to prove its ability to step outside of its back yard and knock off a bully from another neighborhood. You can bet there will be plenty of people using that game as a way of determining whether Ohio State—and by extension the Big Ten—is capable of competing with the big dogs.

Can the Buckeyes do that and gather the necessary momentum to carry them through the Big Ten and past a first-rate bowl opponent?

Right now, the answer is no.

The loss of seven offensive starters, including running back Beanie Wells and wideout Brian Robiskie—along with the departures of defensive playmakers James Laurinaitis, Marcus Freeman and Malcolm Jenkins—leave the Buckeyes in a rebuilding mode, even though that term is not necessarily welcome in Columbus.

Still, finding a new ground-game standout, revamping the linebacking corps and upgrading the secondary won't be easy. Throw in the continuing saga of an offensive line that didn't perform well last year, and you can see why it's hard to throw a resounding stamp of approval on these Buckeyes and turn them out in the bright national spotlight.

At least Terrelle Pryor returns at quarterback. Some may wonder if that's a good thing, given the rookie's growing pains last year, but there's no denying Pryor's skills and his fit for the spread offense. The question is whether he'll be more accomplished in it this year and if he'll be able to get the ball downfield more in the passing game.

What is certain is some form of change in the way the Buckeyes attack defenses. They will vary the formations, using Pryor in a modified "pistol" formation, about four yards behind center with a tailback

JAY DROWNS / SN

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Terrelle Pryor						
GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	146.50	165-100-4	60.6	1311	12	100.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Terrelle Pryor	13	139	631	4.5	6	48.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Dane Sanzenbacher	8	21	272	13.0	1	34.0

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Kurt Coleman	12	43	35	78

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Thaddeus Gibson	13	5	27

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Kurt Coleman	4	18	4.5	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 10-3
Big Ten: 7-1
(lost to Texas in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, 24-21)

Coach: Jim Tressel
9th year (83-19)
Career record: 83-19
Offensive coordinator:
Jim Bollman (9th year)
Defensive coordinators:
Jim Heacock (5th year) and Luke Fickell (5th year)

Stadium: Ohio Stadium (102,329)
Tickets: 800-GO-BUCKS
Site: Columbus
Official athletic Web site:
ohiostatebuckeyes.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	2	Terrelle Pryor (6-6, 235, So.)
	14	Joe Bauserman (6-2, 220, So.)
FB	41	Jermil Martin (6-0, 227, Fr.)
	37	James Georgiades (6-1, 240, Fr.)
RB	1	Dan Herron (5-10, 193, So.)
	3	Brandon Saine (6-1, 217, Jr.)
LOT	64	Jim Cordle (6-4, 297, Sr.)
	73	Josh Kerr (6-4, 286, Jr.)
LOG	70	Bryant Browning (6-4, 312, Jr.)
	68	Evan Blankenship (6-3, 290, So.)
C	50	Michael Brewster (6-5, 296, So.)
	66	Andrew Moses (6-3, 280, Sr.)
ROG	56	Justin Boren (6-3, 320, Sr.)
	77	Connor Smith (6-4, 321, Jr.)
ROT	74	Mike Adams (6-8, 322, So.)
	55	Andy Miller (6-6, 279, Jr.)
TE	86	Jake Ballard (6-6, 256, Sr.)
	81	Nic DiLillo (6-5, 237, Fr.)
WR	8	DeVier Posey (6-3, 205, So.)
	15	Lamaar Thomas (5-11, 186, So.)
WR	12	Dane Sanzenbacher (5-11, 175, Jr.)
	82	Ray Small (5-11, 180, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	90	Thaddeus Gibson (6-2, 240, Jr.)
	43	Nathan Williams (6-4, 245, So.)
LDT	84	Doug Worthington (6-6, 276, Sr.)
	53	Garrett Goebel (6-5, 280, Fr.)
RDT	72	Dexter Larimore (6-2, 300, Jr.)
	92	Todd Denlinger (6-2, 292, Sr.)
RDE	97	Cameron Heyward (6-6, 287, Jr.)
	9	Robert Rose (6-5, 285, Jr.)
SLB	26	Tyler Moeller (6-0, 216, Jr.)
	41	Tony Jackson (5-11, 227, So.)
MLB	38	Austin Spitler (6-3, 234, Sr.)
	11	Etienne Sabino (6-3, 232, So.)
WLB	51	Ross Homan (6-0, 229, Jr.)
	36	Brian Rolle (5-11, 221, Jr.)
LCB	13	Andre Amos (6-1, 183, Sr.)
	18	Travis Howard (6-1, 180, Fr.)
RCB	5	Chimdi Chekwa (6-0, 188, Jr.)
	10	Devon Torrence (6-1, 193, Jr.)
FS	21	Anderson Russell (6-0, 205, Sr.)
	8	Aaron Gant (6-0, 194, Sr.)
SS	4	Kurt Coleman (5-11, 188, Sr.)
	7	Jermale Hines (6-2, 210, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	20	Aaron Pettrey (6-2, 199, Sr.)
P	48	Jon Thoma (6-2, 201, Sr.)

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OSU	OPP
SCORING	359	181
Points Per Game	27.6	13.9
FIRST DOWNS	230	232
Rushing	133	96
Passing	82	117
Penalty	15	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2502	1433
Yards gained rushing	2880	1781
Yards lost rushing	378	348
Rushing Attempts	540	406
Average Per Rush	4.6	3.5
Average Per Game	192.5	110.2
TDs Rushing	21	7
PASSING YARDAGE	1953	2386
Att-Comp-Int	267-160-6	440-253-15
Average Per Pass	7.3	5.4
Average Per Catch	12.2	9.4
Average Per Game	150.2	183.5
TDs Passing	17	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	4455	3819
Total Plays	807	846
Average Per Play	5.5	4.5
Average Per Game	342.7	293.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	33-633	58-1015
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	35-455	16-66
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	15-105	6-82

TEAM STATISTICS	OSU	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	19.2	17.5
PUNT RETURN AVG.	13.0	4.1
INT RETURN AVG.	7.0	13.7
FUMBLES-LOST	15-7	24-14
PENALTIES-YARDS	68-567	60-507
Average Per Game	43.6	39.0
PUNTS-YARDS	60-2445	80-3114
Average Per Punt	40.8	38.9
Net punt average	38.0	32.0
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:42	28:18
3RD-DOWN CONV.	74/172	66/187
3rd-Down Pct.	43%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	4/9	11/18
4th-Down Pct.	44%	61%
SACKS BY-YARDS	28-223	29-195
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	42	21
FG-ATTEMPTS	22-27	11-14
PAT-ATTEMPTS	39-40	20-20
ATTENDANCE	1469660	725150
Games/Avg Per Game	14/104976	10/72515
Neutral Site Games		2/72047

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Ohio State	97	90	47	125	359
Opponent	24	60	51	46	181

JAY DROWNS / SN

behind him. Ohio State may put Pryor in the shotgun between a pair of backs, using motion to create confusion for opponents. He may even be under center with backs in the I-formation. It will all be designed to showcase what Pryor can do while still staying true to coach Jim Tressel's running-game-and-defense credo.

Whether he throws it well could be a function of OSU's receiving corps, which loses not only Robiskie but Brian Hartline. None of the key returnees—Dane Sanzenbacher, DeVier Posey, Ray Small and Lamaar Thomas—has distinguished himself as of yet, so there might well be immediate work for freshmen Duron Carter and James Jackson.

Finding a replacement for Wells might be a little easier. After all, sophomore Dan Herron played well last season while Wells battled a foot injury. He changes directions well and might be deployed with junior Brandon Saine, who was a valuable weapon in '07 but struggled with a hamstring injury last season. A pair of freshmen, Jaamal Berry and Carlos Hyde, will get the chance to impress, too.

The line struggled last year and changes were made. Three starters return, and Michigan transfer Justin Boren finally gets a chance to play. Expect a more physical unit.

The Buckeyes' defensive unit was its usual stout self against the run last year, but losing Laurinaitis and Freeman will make OSU vulnerable this season. That's why the front four, which brings back three starters, must be more effective in stuffing players, so that new starters Austin Spitler and Tyler Moeller can find the ball.

The back line loses Jenkins, but strong safety Kurt Coleman is back after registering 78 tackles and picking off four passes in '08. Chimdi Chekwa will play one corner, and coaches are waiting to see if freshman Corey Brown will shine in fall camp and unseat Andre Amos. Expect the coverages to be simple early on as the Buckeyes build some secondary depth.

The return games are in great shape, thanks to Small's prowess bringing back punts, and Thomas' skill returning kicks.

Aaron Pettrey made seven of eight field-goal tries last year, mostly the long-range variety, including a 54-yarder, so that position is secure. But Jon Thoma, who punted just twice last year, must prove himself quickly or lose his spot to redshirt freshman Ben Buchanan.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Buckeyes jumped out of the gate early, securing a majority of their commitments before the recruiting season got into high gear.

As always, Ohio State harvested a bumper crop in its own back yard and went national to score some other key prospects, such as five-star linebacker **Dorian Bell** and five-star cornerback **Corey Brown** from Pennsylvania. More skill-position help is on the way with wide receiver **Duron Carter** and running back **Jaamal Berry**. The secondary also received a major injection of speed.

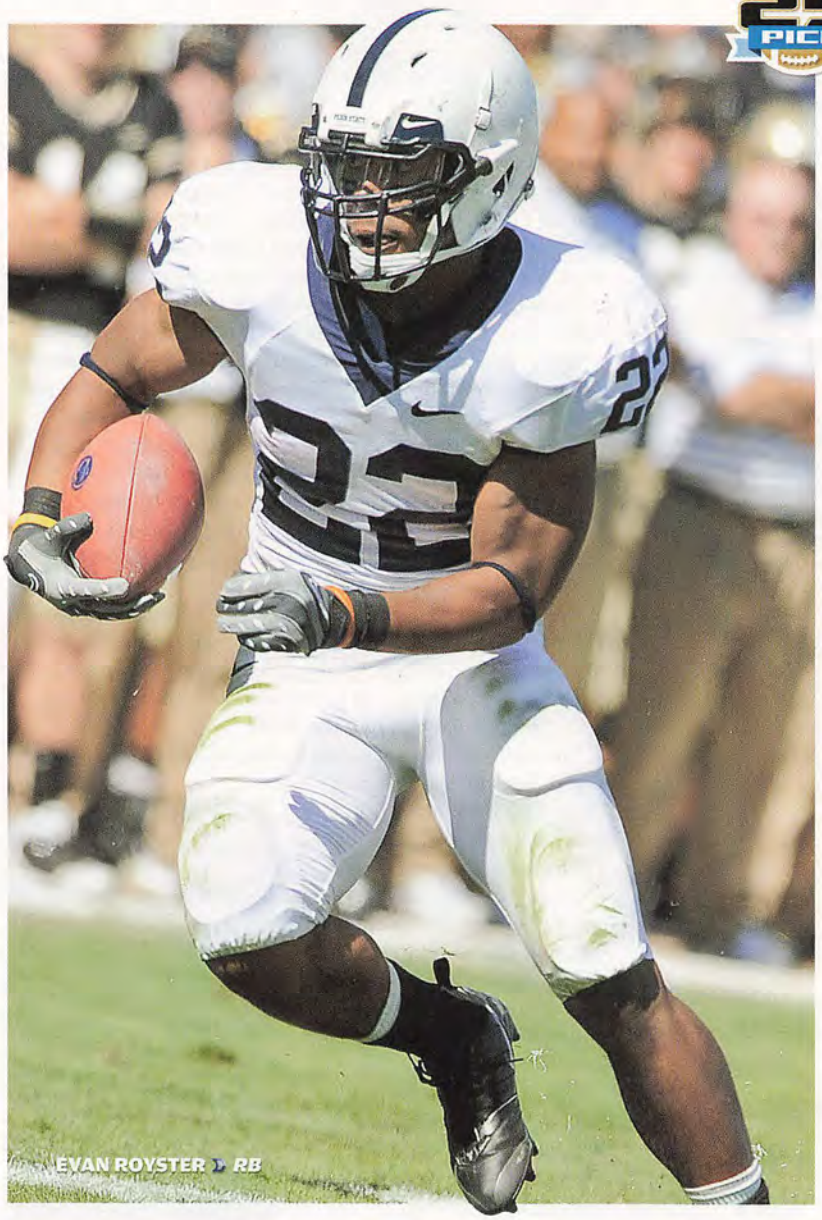
—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *THAD GIBSON, DE*

The Buckeyes need playmakers on defense, and Gibson, who registered five sacks last season, has the speed to spend a lot of time in enemy backfields this year.

2 PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

TOP 25 PICK



EVAN ROYSTER » RB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Akron	
S.12	Syracuse	55-13
S.19	Temple	45-3
S.26	Iowa	23-24
O.3	@ILLINOIS	38-24
O.10	Eastern Illinois	
O.17	Minnesota	
O.24	@MICHIGAN	46-17
O.31	@NORTHWESTERN	

GAME TO WATCH

N.7	Ohio State	13-6

The league's top two teams square off in State College, and PSU tries to win two in a row over the Bucks for the first time in school history.

N.14	Indiana	34-7
N.21	@MICHIGAN STATE	49-18

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» CAPITAL ONE BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Quarterback Daryll Clark brings stability and big-play potential.
- Great ground game allows for production early.
- Sean Lee's return helps energize the defense.

Just when they think he's out, he pulls himself back in. That "reverse Corleone" move, based on the Godfather III declaration by the Don himself, applies to Joe Paterno.

Rather than trying to extricate himself from the Penn State program, as Corleone tried to do from the family business, JoePa is holding on valiantly at age 82. If he continues to assemble seasons like 2008, he'll be able to stick around State College until he's 102. Last year, the Nittany Lions won 11 games, took the Big Ten crown and made it to the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1994. And now that Paterno has replaced his aching hip, he'll be able to run back on the field with his team and try for an encore.

Trouble is, he won't have the same experienced group around him, and that might lead to calls for his head again. Penn State loses 13 starters, including kicker Kevin Kelly, so the road to a repeat won't be too easy. Since one of those holdovers is senior quarterback Daryll Clark, Paterno has a good weapon at his disposal. But he still needs to find some receivers, fix up the secondary and craft an offensive line.

What a difference a season made with Clark, who entered 2008 as a question mark and exited a first-team All-Big Ten choice. He was an improved passer and also ran for 10 touchdowns. The Lions put him in the spread attack and, with few exceptions, Clark was accurate, comfortable and efficient.

His trick this year is to be more consistent and to avoid the funks that plagued him last year against Iowa and USC. When Clark is confident, he's practically unstoppable. His charge now is to step up bigger in the more important games. Though he scored once on the ground and threw two touchdowns in the Rose Bowl loss to

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Daryll Clark	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	143.44	321-192-6	59.8	2592	19	199.4

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Evan Royster	13	191	1236	6.5	12	95.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Evan Royster	13	17	155	9.1	0	11.9

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Navorro Bowman	13	61	45	106

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Jared Odrick	13	4.5	24

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Drew Astorino	2	29	14.5	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 11-2
Big Ten: 7-1
(lost to USC in the Rose Bowl, 38-24)

Coach: Joe Paterno
44th year (381-129-3)
Career record: 381-129-3
Offensive coordinator:
Galen Hall (6th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Tom Bradley (10th year)

Stadium: Beaver Stadium (107,282)
Tickets: 800-833-5533
Site: University Park
Official athletic Web site:
www.gopsusports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	17	Daryll Clark (6-2, 233, Sr.)
	12	Kevin Newsome (6-2, 225, Fr.)
RB	22	Evan Royster (6-1, 209, Jr.)
	32	Brent Carter (6-2, 219, Jr.)
LOT	50	DeOn'tae Pannell (6-5, 313, So.)
	72	Nerraw McCormack (6-5, 295, Sr.)
LOG	77	Lou Eliades (6-4, 305, Jr.)
	60	James Terry (6-3, 319, Fr.)
C	61	Stefen Wisniewski (6-3, 302, Jr.)
	67	Quinn Barham (6-3, 288, So.)
ROG	54	Matt Stankiewitch (6-3, 290, Fr.)
	74	Johnnie Troutman (6-4, 322, So.)
ROT	73	Dennis Landolt (6-4, 303, Sr.)
	79	Ako Poti (6-3, 305, Sr.)
TE	10	Andrew Quarless (6-5, 253, Sr.)
	82	Mickey Shuler (6-4, 249, Jr.)
WR	6	Derek Moye (6-5, 195, So.)
	14	A.J. Price (6-4, 173, Fr.)
WR	83	Brett Brackett (6-6, 231, Jr.)
	8	James McDonald (6-2, 204, Sr.)
WR	5	Graham Zug (6-2, 178, Jr.)
	2	Chaz Powell (6-1, 195, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	81	Jack Crawford (6-5, 262, So.)
	59	Pete Massaro (6-4, 247, Fr.)
LDT	91	Jared Odrick (6-5, 306, Sr.)
	71	Devon Still (6-5, 305, So.)
RDT	85	Ollie Ogbu (6-1, 292, Jr.)
	95	Abe Koroma (6-3, 317, Jr.)
RDE	44	Kevion Latham (6-2, 248, So.)
	56	Eric Latimore (6-6, 264, So.)
SLB	43	Josh Hull (6-3, 236, Sr.)
	5	Jerome Hayes (6-2, 250, Sr.)
MLB	45	Sean Lee (6-2, 236, Sr.)
	66	Ethan Hull (6-0, 282, Fr.)
WLB	11	Navorro Bowman (6-1, 230, Jr.)
	15	Bani Gbadyu (6-1, 228, Jr.)
LCB	1	A.J. Wallace (6-1, 201, Sr.)
	8	D'Anton Lynn (6-1, 198, So.)
RCB	4	Knowledge Timmons (5-10, 187, Sr.)
	20	Devin Fentress (5-10, 169, Sr.)
FS	13	Andrew Dailey (6-2, 221, So.)
	7	Cedric Jeffries (6-2, 203, Jr.)
SS	28	Drew Astorino (5-10, 193, So.)
	10	Nick Sukay (6-1, 208, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	36	Collin Wagner (5-9, 170, Jr.)
P	41	Jeremy Boone (5-9, 184, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	PSU	OPP
SCORING	506	187
Points Per Game	38.9	14.4
FIRST DOWNS	300	206
Rushing	136	79
Passing	142	116
Penalty	22	11
RUSHING YARDAGE	2676	1212
Yards gained rushing	2897	1569
Yards lost rushing	221	357
Rushing Attempts	511	430
Average Per Rush	5.2	2.8
Average Per Game	205.8	93.2
TDs Rushing	36	12
PASSING YARDAGE	3160	2429
Att-Comp-Int	383-224-6	399-225-16
Average Per Pass	8.3	6.1
Average Per Catch	14.1	10.8
Average Per Game	243.1	186.8
TDs Passing	24	10
TOTAL OFFENSE	5836	3641
Total Plays	894	829
Average Per Play	6.5	4.4
Average Per Game	448.9	280.1
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	37-908	76-1616
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	25-259	12-64
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-199	6-64

TEAM STATISTICS	PSU	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	24.5	21.3
PUNT RETURN AVG.	10.4	5.3
INT RETURN AVG.	12.4	10.7
FUMBLES-LOST	24-10	19-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	49-408	62-564
Average Per Game	31.4	43.4
PUNTS-YARDS	42-1774	81-3244
Average Per Punt	42.2	40.0
Net punt average	37.9	35.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:44	28:15
3RD-DOWN CONV.	90/173	60/186
3rd-Down Pct.	52%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/13	13/24
4th-Down Pct.	38%	54%
SACKS BY-YARDS	33-203	13-100
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	63	22
FG-ATTEMPTS	21-25	11-14
PAT-ATTEMPTS	63-63	20-21
ATTENDANCE	757775	360830
Games/Avg Per Game	7/108254	5/72166
Neutral Site Games		1/93293

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Penn State	90	182	128	106	506
Opponent	38	75	23	51	187

USC, he also tossed a pair of interceptions and was ineffective in the first half, when Penn State fell behind 31-7.

The departures of wideouts Deon Butler, Derrick Williams and Jordan Norwood—they combined for 132 receptions and 17 touchdowns last year—won't do much for Clark's self-assurance. He'll have to hope Brett Brackett, Derek Moye and Graham Zug—who combined for 27 catches and four scores last year—can step up. They lack the 2008 trio's speed but are bigger targets.

While the receivers get comfortable, backs Evan Royster (1,236 yards, 12 scores) and Stephfon Green (578, 4) will carry the burden. The only problem with turning things over to them early is that three starters are gone from the offensive line, and each was named first-team All-Big Ten.

Center Stefen Wisniewski was a second-team all-league choice a year ago as a guard, so he's a good anchor to the unit, but sophomore DeOn'tae Pannell must emerge as a capable left tackle to complement stalwart Dennis Landolt on the right side. Also, a pair of guards has to be found from a collection of youngsters.

The defense may be without seven starters, but the healthy return of linebacker Sean Lee from a torn ACL that robbed him of the 2008 season is a plus. Lee is capable of tracking running backs from sideline to sideline but also has the power to mash at the point of attack. Putting him between or next to holdovers Navorro Bowman and Josh Hull will make the Lions dangerous on the second level.

The Lions will need some help up front because the departure of end Aaron Maybin takes away the team's top pass rusher. Jared Odrick showed promise at tackle last year and Ollie Ogbu is a quick interior lineman as well, but a host of youngsters has to get rolling quickly on the outside.

Although the Lions lose all four starting defensive backs, they didn't do much to stop USC receivers on New Year's Day. Drew Astorino showed flashes of big talent at safety last year, so expect him to play well right away. A.J. Wallace was similarly impressive at corner. Gerald Hodges, a freshman who enrolled in January, could grab the other safety position.

Replacing Kelly won't be easy, as he made 20 of 24 field-goal tries last year. Collin Wagner and Anthony Fera will fight it out through the summer. Jeremy Boone averaged 43 yards per punt last year and earned honorable mention all-league honors. With the loss of Williams, the return game needs help, but sophomore wideout Chaz Powell has good speed and could take both jobs.

RECRUITING REPORT

Penn State didn't draw the type of national headlines that Ohio State or Michigan did in recruiting, but the group heading to Happy Valley will keep the Nittany Lions on the right track.

There are plenty of stars to go with quarterback Kevin Newsome. The class is led by offensive lineman Eric Shrive. The group of defensive backs is also special, with four-star players Derrick Thomas and Darrell Givens at cornerback.

Quarterback was a priority for the Lions, so landing Newsome was vital. He may not be ready to step on the field from Day 1, but Newsome has the tools to be the leader in the future.

—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *STEFEN WISNIEWSKI, C*

Penn State's line was hit hard by graduation, and the junior moves into the pivot position to provide stability and power for the ground game.

3 MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

JOE ROBBINS

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Montana State	
S.12	Central Michigan	
S.19	@NOTRE DAME	23-7
S.26	@WISCONSIN	25-24
O.3	Michigan	35-21
O.10	@ILLINOIS	
O.17	Northwestern	37-20
O.24	Iowa	16-13
O.31	@MINNESOTA	
N.7	Western Michigan	
N.14	@PURDUE	21-7

GAME TO WATCH

N.21 Penn State 18-49

When the Spartans met the Nittany Lions last year for a share of the Big Ten title, they couldn't measure up. It's time to see if anything has changed.

BOWL PROJECTION
» ALAMO BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- More discipline and focus mean more wins.
- Greg Jones leads a nasty defense.

In East Lansing, folks are encouraged that Michigan State showed better effort in the Capital One Bowl against Georgia (a 24-12 loss) than it did in two big games against Ohio State and Penn State (combined deficit: 79 points). Perhaps that means Mark Dantonio's rebuilding project could be measured week-to-week rather than year-to-year. Whatever the case, it seems appropriate for Michigan State to start winning some big games.

In some ways, the hardest part of Dantonio's work is done.

Gone is the fatalistic attitude that seemed to torpedo every Spartan effort. The dumb penalties have been cut back, and the crushing errors at key points in important games are down, too.

By reversing the culture in the program and convincing his players they can compete with anybody, Dantonio has put the Spartans in position to move forward. Now, it's time to do so.

They'll have to without running back Javon Ringer (1,637 yards, 22 TDs), who graduated after carrying the ball 30 times a game last season and supporting the offense on his willing shoulders.

One might consider this a signal of impending doom for the Spartans, but there is a six-pack of candidates (including two freshmen) lined up for the position. Though none will likely be able to play workhorse, several—most notably 228-pound sophomore Ashton Leggett—will get work.

The Spartans might even run a little option, because both candidates to replace quarterback Brian Hoyer (Kirk Cousins and Keith Nichol) are mobile enough to pull it off.

Cousins has the edge at the quarterback spot because he knows the offense and he saw time in five games last year

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Kirk Cousins

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
4	145.67	43-32-1	74.4	310	2	77.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Andre Anderson	11	26	97	3.7	0	8.8

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Blair White	13	43	659	15.3	1	50.7

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Greg Jones	13	80	47	127

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Trevor Anderson	13	8	64

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Johnny Adams	2	40	20.0	1
Danny Fortener	2	37	18.5	0
Chris L. Rucker	2	4	2.0	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
Big Ten: 6-2
(lost to Georgia in the Capital One Bowl, 24-12)

Coach: Mark Dantonio
3rd year (16-10)
Career record: 34-27
Offensive coordinator:
Don Tredwell (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Pat Narduzzi (3rd year)

Stadium: Spartan Stadium (75,005)
Tickets: 800-GO-STATE
Site: East Lansing
Official athletic Web site:
www.msuspartans.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	8	Kirk Cousins (6-3, 202, So.)
	9	Keith Nichol (6-2, 212, So.)
FB	45	Andrew Hawken (6-2, 238, Sr.)
	44	Josh Rouse (6-3, 242, Sr.)
RB	32	Ashton Leggett (5-8, 228, r-So.)
	20	A.J. Jimmerson (5-10, 205, Sr.)
LOT	64	Brendon Moss (6-6, 284, Sr.)
	71	John Deyo (6-6, 295, Fr.)
LOG	67	Joel Foreman (6-3, 310, So.)
	68	Ethan Ruhland (6-6, 287, Fr.)
C	65	Joel Nitchman (6-3, 296, Sr.)
	66	John Stipek (6-5, 306, Sr.)
ROG	75	Jared McGaha (6-6, 289, So.)
	62	Chris McDonald (6-5, 285, Fr.)
ROT	77	J'Michael Deane (6-5, 297, Jr.)
	76	Mike Schmeding (6-8, 330, Sr.)
TE	83	Charlie Gantt (6-4, 245, Jr.)
	85	Garrett Celek (6-5, 243, So.)
WR	25	Blair White (6-2, 205, Sr.)
	2	Mark Dell (6-2, 196, Jr.)
WR	3	B.J. Cunningham (6-2, 210, So.)
	82	Keshawn Martin (6-0, 186, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	58	Trevor Anderson (6-2, 259, Sr.)
	91	Tyler Hoover (6-7, 268, r-Fr.)
LDT	96	Kevin Pickelman (6-3, 255, So.)
	99	Jerel Worthy (6-3, 297, r-Fr.)
RDT	70	Oren Wilson (6-3, 288, Jr.)
	98	Michael Jordan (6-5, 295, Sr.)
RDE	89	Colin Neely (6-1, 245, Jr.)
	54	David Rolf (6-3, 228, So.)
SLB	43	Eric Gordon (6-0, 223, Jr.)
	36	Jon Misch (6-2, 205, Jr.)
MLB	53	Greg Jones (6-1, 222, Jr.)
	55	Adam Decker (6-2, 242, Sr.)
WLB	34	Brandon Denson (5-11, 228, Sr.)
	35	Marcus Webb (5-11, 218, Sr.)
LCB	37	Ross Weaver (6-1, 204, Sr.)
	21	Patrick White (5-11, 180, Fr.)
RCB	29	Chris Rucker (6-2, 197, Jr.)
	5	Johnny Adams (5-11, 165, So.)
FS	33	Danny Fortener (6-1, 203, Sr.)
	31	Ashton Henderson (5-11, 183, Sr.)
SS	11	Marcus Hyde (6-0, 205, Jr.)
	30	Brynden Trawick (6-3, 222, Fr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	14	Brett Swenson (5-8, 175, Sr.)
P	18	Aaron Bates (6-0, 190, Jr.)

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	MSU	OPP
SCORING	326	287
Points Per Game	25.1	22.1
FIRST DOWNS	244	228
Rushing	92	88
Passing	126	118
Penalty	26	22
RUSHING YARDAGE	1692	1852
Yards gained rushing	2120	2191
Yards lost rushing	428	339
Rushing Attempts	511	450
Average Per Rush	3.3	4.1
Average Per Game	130.2	142.5
TDs Rushing	24	16
PASSING YARDAGE	2773	2774
Att-Comp-Int	399-214-10	422-224-14
Average Per Pass	6.9	6.6
Average Per Catch	13.0	12.4
Average Per Game	213.3	213.4
TDs Passing	11	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	4465	4626
Total Plays	910	872
Average Per Play	4.9	5.3
Average Per Game	343.5	355.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	52-1026	54-1157
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	28-279	30-290
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-240	10-116

TEAM STATISTICS	MSU	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	19.7	21.4
PUNT RETURN AVG.	10.0	9.7
INT RETURN AVG.	17.1	11.6
FUMBLES-LOST	22-12	18-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	66-600	82-705
Average Per Game	46.2	54.2
PUNTS-YARDS	73-2979	77-3197
Average Per Punt	40.8	41.5
Net punt average	34.4	35.3
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:01	28:59
3RD-DOWN CONV.	66/191	78/190
3rd-Down Pct.	35%	41%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/15	3/17
4th-Down Pct.	60%	18%
SACKS BY-YARDS	26-191	24-196
MISC YARDS	0	20
TDS SCORED	37	37
FG-ATTEMPTS	22-28	9-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	34-34	36-36
ATTENDANCE	524005	347306
Games/Avg Per Game	7/74858	5/69461
Neutral Site Games		1/59681

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Michigan State	64	92	70	100	326
Opponent	59	80	69	79	287

(completing 32 of 43 passes). But don't be surprised if both sophomores play.

They'll each benefit from the return of several experienced targets. Senior Blair White, sophomore B.J. Cunningham, junior Mark Dell and junior tight end Charlie Gantt all proved themselves last year, but each must do a better job getting into the end zone since they combined for just eight touchdowns in '08.

Three starters are gone from the offensive line, and that's a reason for concern. Center Joel Nitchman is solid, while sophomore guard Joel Foreman has the potential to be a dominating interior presence. But the Spartans need to find a couple tackles or those young backs won't get any traction.

As the green offense finds its way, the Spartans will rely on a defense that returns eight starters and has blossomed under coordinator Pat Narduzzi.

Featured this season is junior Greg Jones, who moves from the strong side to middle linebacker and has star potential. Jones made 14 tackles for loss last year and was named first-team All-Big Ten.

This season, he makes a bid for All-America honors and has the speed to be one of the nation's top big-play linebackers. Junior Eric Gordon isn't too shabby, either, and he moves to Jones' old position.

Defensive end Trevor Anderson registered eight sacks last year, and Oren Wilson was a strong line anchor who improved during the offseason. You won't recognize many of the other names along the front four, but Michigan State will be deeper than in the past. Redshirt freshman end Tyler Hoover, junior end Colin Neely and redshirt freshman tackle Jerel Worthy should play big roles this year, as should sophomore tackle Kevin Pickelman, who gained 20 pounds.

With three secondary regulars back, Michigan State has a chance to be better against the pass. Although they limited opposing quarterbacks to a 53.1-percent completion rate, they gave up a lot of yards.

A better pass rush will help, but so will improved play from corners Ross Weaver and Chris Rucker as well as sophomore Johnny Adams. Senior Danny Fortener is a strong center fielder, while junior Marcus Hyde steps in at strong safety.

The Spartan specialists are top-shelf players. Kicker Brett Swenson converted 22 of 28 attempts last year and was second-team all-league, while punter Aaron Bates earned honorable mention for averaging 42.0 yards per kick.

The Spartans do need some help in the return game and should turn to senior A.J. Jimmerson.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Spartans were one of the nation's biggest surprises last season, and they also surprised a lot of local observers with their dominating in-state class. Led by recruiting coordinator Mark Staten and ace recruiter Dan Enos, Michigan State scored some major head-to-head wins over Michigan. The Spartans were able to snag Top 100 prospect **David Barrent** away from Iowa and add plenty of depth at the offensive skill positions. The line class was one of the best in the conference, as center **Nate Klatt** is one of the nation's top prospects at his position. Quarterback **Andrew Maxwell** has the tools to be a star; he's smart and has moxie as well as a strong, accurate arm.
—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *JOEL FOREMAN, G*

The sophomore was a key part of the line that opened holes last year for Javon Ringer. He'll become the stalwart on this year's quintet.

4 IOWA HAWKEYES

RICKY STANZI » QB

KIM KLEMENT / US PRESSWIRE

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Northern Iowa	
S.12	@IOWA STATE	17-5
S.19	Arizona	
S.26	@PENN STATE	24-23
0.3	Arkansas State	
0.10	Michigan	
0.17	@WISCONSIN	38-16
0.24	@MICHIGAN STATE	13-16
0.31	Indiana	45-9
N.7	Northwestern	17-22

GAME TO WATCH

N.14 @OHIO STATE

The Hawkeyes play both Ohio State and Penn State on the road. This meeting should have title implications and give Iowa a chance to take a big step forward.

N.21	Minnesota	55-0

BOWL PROJECTION
» OUTBACK BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Quarterback Ricky Stanzi's consistency quiets an offense in transition.
- Talented linebackers and defensive backs will key a fine defense.
- The Hawkeyes should be strong in tight games.

They're changing the playing surface at Kinnick Stadium from grass to artificial turf, but there's no more discussion of replacing the coach anymore. That's because the Hawkeyes put together a nine-win season in 2008 that culminated in a bowl thumping of South Carolina. All of a sudden, Kirk Ferentz looks like the same sharp guy who helped Iowa come out of the post-Hayden Fry doldrums earlier this decade. The school sure thinks so, and that's why it signed him through the 2015 season.

And despite the losses of a few key performers—most notably standout rusher Shonn Greene and defensive-line anchor Mitch King—Iowa has a great chance to keep the good times going this year, and perhaps contend for the league title. Last year, the Hawkeyes' four losses came by a combined 12 points. Given the experience of this year's club, Iowa should prevail in most close games it plays.

One of the reasons is junior quarterback Ricky Stanzi, who emerged early last year and became one of the conference's most accurate quarterbacks. Stanzi was most impressive in the win over Penn State, when he led the Hawkeyes on the winning drive. Stanzi has a strong arm, can move well in the pocket and makes good decisions. In a conference where many teams are searching for reliable quarterback play, Stanzi gives Iowa security under center.

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Ricky Stanzi	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	134.84	254-150-9	59.1	1956	14	150.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jewel Hampton	12	91	463	5.1	7	38.6

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Derrell Johnson-Koulianos	13	44	639	14.5	3	49.2

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Pat Angerer	13	46	61	107

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Broderick Binns	13	2	15
Adrian Clayborn	13	2	22
AJ Edds	13	2	15
Karl Klug	12	2	8

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Pat Angerer	5	34	6.8	0
Tyler Sash	5	147	29.4	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
Big Ten: 5-3
(beat South Carolina in the Outback Bowl, 31-10)

Coach: Kirk Ferentz
11th year (70-53)
Career record: 72-74
Offensive coordinator:
Ken O'Keefe (11th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Norm Parker (11th year)

Stadium: Kinnick Stadium (70,585)
Tickets: 800-IA-HAWKS
Site: Iowa City
Official athletic Web site:
www.hawkeyesports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Ricky Stanzi (6-4, 218, Jr.)
	16	James Vandenberg (6-3, 205, Fr.)
FB	36	Brett Morse (6-3, 238, Jr.)
	47	Wade Leppert (6-0, 245, So.)
RB	27	Jewel Hampton (5-9, 210, So.)
	25	Paki O'Meara (5-11, 211, Jr.)
LOT	79	Bryan Bulaga (6-6, 312, Jr.)
	56	Markus Zusevics (6-5, 278, So.)
LOG	63	Julian Vandervelde (6-3, 300, Jr.)
	52	Rafael Eubanks (6-3, 280, Jr.)
C	67	Josh Koeppel (6-2, 267, Jr.)
	53	James Ferentz (6-2, 265, Fr.)
ROG	68	Andy Kuempel (6-7, 300, Sr.)
	74	Dan Doering (6-6, 300, Sr.)
ROT	60	Kyle Calloway (6-7, 315, Sr.)
	77	Riley Reiff (6-6, 280, Fr.)
TE	81	Tony Moeaki (6-4, 250, Sr.)
	82	Allen Reisner (6-3, 235, Jr.)
WR	15	Derrell Johnson-Koulianos (6-1, 200, Jr.)
	22	Colin Sandman (6-1, 200, Jr.)
WR	86	Trey Stross (6-4, 200, Sr.)
	7	Marvin McNutt (6-4, 215, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	94	Adrian Clayborn (6-3, 282, Jr.)
	98	Chad Geary (6-3, 262, Sr.)
LDT	95	Karl Klug (6-4, 258, Jr.)
	54	Steve Bigach (6-3, 270, Fr.)
RDT	93	Mike Daniels (6-1, 267, So.)
	64	Cody Hundertmark (6-4, 280, Jr.)
RDE	46	Christian Ballard (6-5, 285, Jr.)
	91	Broderick Binns (6-2, 255, So.)
SLB	49	A.J. Edds (6-4, 244, Sr.)
	45	Tyler Nielsen (6-4, 232, So.)
MLB	43	Pat Angerer (6-1, 235, Sr.)
	55	Jacody Coleman (6-3, 240, Jr.)
WLB	42	Jeremiha Hunter (6-2, 235, Jr.)
	33	Jeff Tarpinian (6-3, 233, Jr.)
LCB	4	Jordan Bernstine (5-11, 205, Jr.)
	89	Shane Prater (6-1, 170, Fr.)
RCB	19	Amari Spievey (6-0, 190, Jr.)
	10	William Lowe (5-10, 170, So.)
FS	30	Brett Greenwood (6-0, 200, Jr.)
	40	Jack Swanson (5-11, 195, Fr.)
SS	9	Tyler Sash (6-1, 210, So.)
	31	David Cato (5-11, 205, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	1	Daniel Murray (5-10, 185, Jr.)
P	5	Ryan Donahue (6-3, 180, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	IOWA	OPP
SCORING	394	169
Points Per Game	30.3	13
FIRST DOWNS	269	215
Rushing	146	68
Passing	108	129
Penalty	15	18
RUSHING YARDAGE	2453	1222
Yards gained rushing	2713	1479
Yards lost rushing	260	257
Rushing Attempts	515	397
Average Per Rush	4.8	3.1
Average Per Game	188.7	94
TDs Rushing	30	7
PASSING YARDAGE	2362	2565
Att-Comp-Int	320-187-11	463-256-23
Average Per Pass	7.4	5.5
Average Per Catch	12.6	10
Average Per Game	181.7	197.3
TDs Passing	16	9
TOTAL OFFENSE	4815	3787
Total Plays	835	860
Average Per Play	5.8	4.4
Average Per Game	370.4	291.3
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	39-798	58-1275
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	41-413	20789
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	23-439	38678

TEAM STATISTICS	IOWA	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	20.5	22
PUNT RETURN AVG.	10.1	5
INT RETURN AVG.	19.1	2.1
FUMBLES-LOST	20-13	17-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	53-446	65-604
Average Per Game	34.3	46.5
PUNTS-YARDS	51-2088	76-3034
Average Per Punt	40.9	39.9
Net punt average	37	32.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:31	38:29
3RD-DOWN CONV.	65/159	67/194
3rd-Down Pct.	41%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	38546	38610
4th-Down Pct.	50%	56%
SACKS BY-YARDS	19-127	27-158
MISC YARDS	14	0
TDS SCORED	48	17
FG-ATTEMPTS	19-24	17-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	45-47	14-16
ATTENDANCE	491186	288216
Games/Avg Per Game	7/70169	5/57643
Neutral Site Games		1/55117

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Iowa	91	103	78	122	394
Opponent	27	58	35	49	169

Although Greene was excellent last year, gaining at least 100 yards in every game, sophomore Jewel Hampton (463 yards) displayed the quickness and burst necessary to be a featured back. Hampton set a Hawkeye freshman record with seven TDs and averaged 5.1 yards a carry. Depth will come from Paki O'Meara and redshirt freshman Jeff Brinson, but the best bet for backup work might be Brandon Wegher, a true freshman with breakaway speed and good power.

Iowa needs to find a couple of receivers behind junior Derrell Johnson-Koulianos, who led the team with 44 catches last year and scored three times. He has excellent speed and the potential to become a huge weapon, but must be more consistent. The Hawkeyes hope junior Colin Sandeman can translate the success he has had as a return man into full-time receiving production and are expecting senior Trey Stross to be a possession target. Incoming freshman Keenan Davis could also see time.

A pair of second-team All-Big Ten selections anchors the line. Junior left tackle Bryan Bulaga is a good blend of size, strength and quickness, while right tackle Kyle Calloway can maul people. Inside, Julian Vandervelde is a solid holdover at guard, but the Hawkeyes must replace a couple of all-conference selections at center and the other guard spot.

The Iowa back seven is loaded with experience and production, so if it takes a while for the ground game and receivers to hit their stride, the Hawkeyes can count on their defense to keep things close. Senior middle linebacker Pat Angerer led the team in tackles last year (107) and also proved valuable in pass coverage, making five interceptions. He's between stalwarts Jeremiha Hunter, a speedy junior, and stout senior A.J. Edds.

Junior corner Amari Spievey leads a secondary that was productive last season. Opposing quarterbacks threw only nine touchdown passes against the Hawkeyes last year and were picked off 23 times. Strong safety Tyler Sash (5 INTs) and free safety Brett Greenwood (2) join Spievey as returning starters, while Jordan Bernstine hopes to hold off several challengers for the other corner spot.

The questions about the Hawkeye defense come up front, where King, the '08 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year, and Matt Kroul have departed from the middle of the line. Replacing them won't be easy, although junior Karl Klug had nine tackles against Florida International last season.

Trent Mossbrucker and Daniel Murray combined to make 19 of 24 field-goal tries last year. Murray has a stronger leg, but Mossbrucker is more accurate. Second-team All-Big Ten punter Ryan Donahue does a great job with hangtime and putting balls inside opposing 20-yard lines. Hampton is a fine punt-return man, and Sandeman has potential bringing back kicks.

RECRUITING REPORT

It's tough to have a highly ranked class when you only sign 19 players, but this is still a nice haul for the Hawkeyes. Iowa reeled in star running back **Brandon Wegher**, and **Brad Rogers** has a shot to be a real steal as a big, bruising rusher. Help was added along the offensive line, and Iowa went heavy at linebacker. Wide receiver **Keenan Davis** was a national prospect who just happened to be in the Hawkeyes' back yard. He was a "must get" because Iowa needs playmakers.
—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *JEWEL HAMPTON, RB*

Hampton worked behind Shonn Greene in 2008 but showed flashes of brilliance that should carry over this year as the Hawkeyes' featured back.

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ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI 5

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	**Missouri***	**42-52**
We'll find out quickly whether the Illini are ready to rebound, or if their inconsistency will plague them again.		
S.12	Illinois State	
S.26	@OHIO STATE	20-30
O.3	Penn State	24-38
O.10	Michigan State	
O.17	@INDIANA	55-13
O.24	@PURDUE	
O.31	Michigan	45-20
N.7	@MINNESOTA	20-27
N.14	Northwestern	10-27
N.27	@CINCINNATI	
D.5	Fresno State	

** at St. Louis, MO*

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» CHAMPS SPORTS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Juice Williams has potential to make big plays.
- Arrelious Benn is one of the nation's most dangerous receivers.
- The roster boasts plenty of young talent.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	7	Juice Williams (6-2, 235, Sr.)
FB	41	Zach Becker (6-3, 252, So.)
RB	22	Daniel Dufrene (5-11, 205, Sr.)
LOT	70	Corey Lewis (6-6, 315, So.)
LOG	66	Randall Hunt (6-6, 320, Jr.)
C	62	Eric Block (6-3, 290, Sr.)
ROG	52	Jon Asamoah (6-5, 315, Sr.)
ROT	71	Jeff Allen (6-5, 310, So.)
TE	16	Michael Hoomanawanui (6-5, 270, Sr.)
WR	9	Arrelious Benn (6-2, 220, Jr.)
WR	17	Jeff Cumberland (6-5, 255, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	95	Doug Pilcher (6-5, 265, Sr.)
LDT	92	Josh Brent (6-2, 315, Jr.)
RDT	93	Corey Liuget (6-3, 290, So.)
RDE	90	Antonio James (6-5, 255, Sr.)
SLB	38	Ian Thomas (6-0, 225, So.)
MLB	33	Russell Ellington (6-2, 225, So.)
WLB	2	Martez Wilson (6-4, 246, Jr.)
LCB	3	Tavon Wilson (6-0, 195, So.)
RCB	28	Dere Hicks (5-10, 175, Sr.)
FS	4	Donsay Hardeman (6-2, 210, Sr.)
SS	31	Travon Bellamy (6-0, 205, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	84	Matt Eller (6-2, 210, So.)
P	87	Anthony Santella (6-2, 190, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
Big Ten: 3-5

Coach: Ron Zook
5th year (17-30)
Career record: 41-44
Offensive coordinator:
Mike Schultz (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Dan Disch (5th year)
Curt Mallory (4th year)

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (69,249)
Tickets: 866-ILLINI-1
Site: Champaign
Official athletic Web site:
www.fightingillini.com

JUICE WILLIAMS, 7-QB

5-YEAR WINS TREND

That thud you heard in 2008 was the Illinois program returning to earth after its heady 2007 Rose Bowl season. Instead of following up the surprise trip to Pasadena, Calif., with more prosperity, the Illini fell to 5-7. The offense staggered, the defense couldn't make enough big plays and everybody started wondering whether Ron Zook was a great recruiter, as many had said during his time as coach at Florida.

The challenge now is to get rolling again, because another season without a bowl could relegate the Illini to the second tier for many years to come, since other Big Ten programs are making strides forward. Zook has to find a way to regain momentum and convince the program that '07 wasn't just a fluke and the Illini belong in the Big Ten contention discussion.

He's lucky to have some weapons at his disposal in that quest, most notably senior quarterback Juice Williams. The question is whether Williams will be content to make big plays occasionally, or if he wants to be a consistent leader and reliable passer. Williams has the tools to be a dynamic run-pass threat, but he can't keep throwing so many interceptions and has to improve his accuracy.

He'll throw to standout Arrelious Benn, who has big-play speed but scored only three times last season. Super-sized receiver Jeff Cumberland (6-5, 255 pounds) is a fine target, and tight end Michael Hoomanawanui has the potential to be an all-conference performer.

The ground game has plenty of options, beginning with running back Daniel Dufrene (663 yards). But it hardly ends there. Sophomores Jason Ford and Mikel LeShoure will get close looks, as will incoming freshmen Justin Green and Bud Golden. They'll work behind a revamped line that is anchored by center Eric Block and right guard Jon Asamoah but needs help on the left side.

Defensive tackle Josh Brent was suspended indefinitely in February following a DUI arrest. If he's reinstated, he'll team with Corey Liuget to give Illinois a strong interior line. End Doug Pilcher also returns. The linebacking corps will miss Brit Miller, but Martez Wilson, who appears to be recovered from a stab wound suffered in December, is an outside force.

Corner Vontae Davis left early for the NFL, but the Illini should still have a strong secondary. Dere Hicks is a stalwart on the outside, and Tavon Wilson and Miami Thomas have potential. Look out for Patrick Nixon-Youman, who missed last year (academics) but has plenty of talent. The safety position is deep and experienced, as Travon Bellamy and Donsay Hardeman are the best of the lot.

There is experience on the special teams, but all areas need an upgrade. Kicker Matt Eller made 15 of 20 field-goal attempts as a freshman, but was inconsistent. Punter Anthony Santella needs to boost his 39.4-yard average. Benn (7.6-yard average) could improve on punt returns, but A.J. Jenkins is a strong kick return man.

THE NEXT BIG THING

MARTEZ WILSON, LB

The Illini need playmakers on defense, and the junior has the size and speed to track down ballcarriers all over the field.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Justin Green
RB, 5-10, 178
Green was a late steal from Ohio State and will get his shot at playing running back for Illinois.

2 — Terry Hawthorne
WR, 6-0, 168
He led his team to an Illinois state championship as a senior and is an explosive receiver who is dangerous once he gets the ball in space.

3 — Michael Buchanan
DE, 6-6, 220
Buchanan emerged as one of the top defenders in the nation last season. He also has the size to stop the run.

4 — Lendell Buckner
DT, 6-3, 341
He's massive in the middle. If Buckner can get into football shape, he could be the dominating run-stopper Illinois needs.

5 — Leon Hill
OL, 6-4, 320
Hill moves well for his size and was one of the most athletic prep interior offensive linemen in the Midwest.

KIRBY LEE / IMAGE OF SPORT / US PRESSWIRE

6 MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

The Rich Rodriguez era began with a thud. It didn't take much of a prognosticator to think Michigan might go through some tough times after Rodriguez took over the program from Lloyd Carr and installed his spread offense. But nobody thought the Wolverines would finish with a 3-9 record. At the start of 2008, Michigan observers expected the team to struggle on offense but figured the defense would carry the Wolverines to respectability. The defense turned out to be just as bad or worse than the offense.

A year later, Michigan supporters are trying to be patient with Rodriguez. During the spring, there was optimism that the arrow was at least pointing in the right direction. However, it's easy to be patient in April when freshman quarterback Tate Forcier was impressive and more than 45,000 fans showed up for the spring game. But it will be difficult to maintain that positive attitude if the Wolverines have early-season losses to Notre Dame and Michigan State.

After all, this is Michigan, the program that Bo Schembechler resurrected and has been at a top level from 1969 through 2007. The Wolverines suffered the indignity of a losing season for the first time since 1967, and two in a row will be too much for the fan base to take.

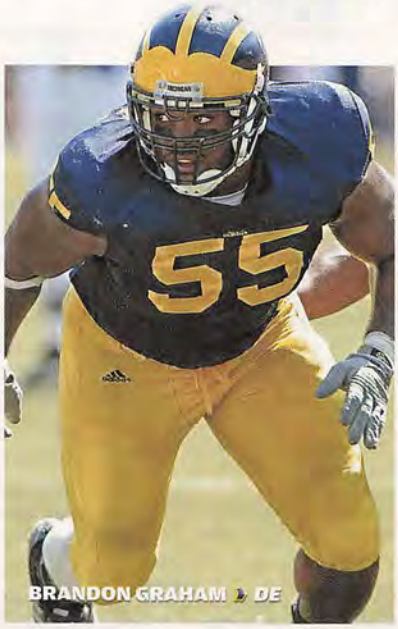
So there is plenty of heat on Rodriguez as he brings back 10 starters from last year's team—but they all may not win starting positions. That's a good thing when the team is coming off last year's losing season. But as far as on-field strengths are concerned, it's difficult to look at any one area and say it will be Michigan's bread and butter.

Forcier appears to have the starting job since Steven Threet transferred and Nick Sheridan missed all of spring football with a fractured leg.

Forcier may have a go-to receiver in redshirt freshman Roy Roundtree, who has good hands, moves well and a gift for catching the ball at its highest point. Sophomore wideout Martavious Odoms returns after catching 49 passes for 433 yards a year ago. Odoms proved he can catch the ball on the run and has little fear of getting hit.

The running game is in the hands of Brandon Minor, who rushed for 533 yards last year and scored nine touchdowns while averaging 5.2 yards per carry. Minor should build off of those figures because the offensive line returns intact.

On the defensive side, the Wolverines return five starters and Rodriguez may get good contributions from all of them. End Brandon Graham had 10 sacks and 20 tackles for loss last year and he is trouble coming around the edge. Linebacker Obi Ezeh is coming off a season in which he registered 98 tackles. Safety Stevie Brown had two interceptions last year and cornerback Donovan Warren is athletic, as he broke up five passes last season.


BRANDON GRAHAM ▸ DE

THE NEXT BIG THING

TATE FORCIER, QB

While the incoming freshman has yet to play a down of college football, he appears to have the athleticism to make plays in the spread offense and the mindset to handle the pressure. If it's not Forcier and the Wolverines have to turn to Nick Sheridan at quarterback, it will be another long season.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 3-9
Big Ten: 3-6

Coach: Rich Rodriguez 2nd year (3-9)
Career record: 108-70-2
Offensive coordinator: Calvin Magee (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator: Greg Robinson (1st year)

Stadium: Michigan Stadium (107,501)
Tickets: 734-764-0247
Site: Ann Arbor
Official athletic Web site: www.mgoblue.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Western Michigan	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.12	**Notre Dame**	**17-35**
Notre Dame may be just good enough this year that a win over the Fighting Irish could springboard Michigan to respectability.		
S.19	Eastern Michigan	
S.26	Indiana	
0.3	@MICHIGAN STATE	21-35
0.10	@IOWA	
0.17	Delaware State	
0.24	Penn State	17-46
0.31	@ILLINOIS	20-45
N.7	Purdue	42-48
N.14	@WISCONSIN	27-25
N.21	Ohio State	7-42

BOWL PROJECTION ▸▸ INSIGHT BOWL — LOWER TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Record should improve.
- There are major question marks everywhere on the field.
- There is not one area Rich Rodriguez can count on.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	5	Tate Forcier (6-1, 187, Fr.)
RB	4	Brandon Minor (6-1, 216, Sr.)
LOT	71	Mark Ortmann (6-7, 284, Sr.)
LOG	52	Stephen Schilling (6-5, 304, Jr.)
C	50	David Molk (6-2, 283, So.)
ROG	60	David Moosman (6-5, 292, Sr.)
ROT	72	Mark Huyge (6-4, 291, So.)
TE	86	Kevin Koger (6-4, 245, So.)
WR	13	Greg Mathews (6-3, 209, Sr.)
WR	16	Roy Roundtree (6-0, 154, So.)
WR	9	Martavious Odoms (5-9, 171, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	55	Brandon Graham (6-2, 268, Sr.)
LDT	73	William Campbell (6-5, 330, Fr.)
RDT	68	Mike Martin (6-2, 291, So.)
RDE	53	Ryan Van Bergen (6-6, 261, So.)
SLB	45	J.B. Fitzgerald (6-3, 232, So.)
MLB	45	Obi Ezeh (6-2, 247, Jr.)
WLB	8	Jonas Mouton (6-2, 218, Jr.)
LCB	33	Boubacar Cissoko (5-9, 182, Fr.)
RCB	6	Donovan Warren (6-0, 187, Jr.)
FS	29	Troy Woolfolk (6-0, 183, Jr.)
SS	3	Stevie Brown (6-0, 209, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	92	Jason Olesnavage (6-5, 212, Sr.)
P	41	Zoltan Mesko (6-5, 238, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 William Campbell *DT, 6-5, 330*
While Campbell's a special defensive tackle, he could also end up being a tremendous offensive tackle down the road.

2 Tate Forcier *QB, 6-1, 187*
Forcier enrolled early and is competing for the starting job. He has all the tools to be the perfect fit for Rich Rodriguez's offense.

3 Justin Turner *S, 6-2, 186*
He emerged as the top prospect in Ohio with a strong senior year and an amazing performance at the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

4 Jeremy Gallon *ATH, 5-8, 165*
Gallon isn't big, but he's a big-time player. He is explosive with the ball in his hands and could play a number of positions.

5 Craig Roh *DE, 6-5, 230*
Roh is a blue-collar defensive end. While he might not impress with his flashy play, Roh gets the job done consistently on every down.

SCOTT BOEHM / GETTY IMAGES

WISCONSIN BADGERS 7

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Northern Illinois	
S.12	Fresno State	13-10
S.19	Wofford	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.26	**Michigan State**	**24-25**

The Badgers lost a tight one to Michigan State last year and open their Big Ten slate with a chance to make a statement about their '08 conference strength.

0.3	@MINNESOTA	35-32
0.10	@OHIO STATE	17-20
0.17	Iowa	16-38
0.31	Purdue	
N.7	@INDIANA	55-20
N.14	Michigan	25-27
N.21	@NORTHWESTERN	
D.5	@HAWAII	

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» INSIGHT BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- John Clay is a first-rate back in the Wisconsin tradition.
- Three returning starters key a solid secondary.
- Few teams will out-tough the Badgers.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	18	Dustin Sherer (6-4, 217, Sr.)
RB	32	John Clay (6-2, 247, So.)
LOT	68	Gabe Carimi (6-8, 313, Jr.)
LOG	78	Jake Bscherer (6-7, 310, Jr.)
C	74	John Moffitt (6-4, 313, Jr.)
ROG	76	Bill Nagy (6-4, 307, Jr.)
ROT	67	Josh Oglesby (6-7, 329, So.)
TE	89	Garrett Graham (6-4, 248, Sr.)
WR	36	Mickey Turner (6-4, 250, Sr.)
WR	6	Isaac Anderson (5-11, 180, Jr.)
WR	85	David Gilreath (5-11, 162, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	97	Brendan Kelly (6-6, 240, Fr.)
LDT	87	J.J. Watt (6-6, 285, So.)
RDT	79	Jeff Stehle (6-6, 291, Sr.)
RDE	50	O'Brien Schofield (6-3, 242, Sr.)
SLB	15	Culmer St. Jean (6-1, 235, Jr.)
MLB	47	Jaevery McFadden (6-3, 226, Sr.)
WLB	27	Blake Sorensen (6-1, 230, Jr.)
LCB	7	Aaron Henry (6-0, 197, So.)
RCB	29	Niles Brinkley (5-10, 180, Jr.)
FS	21	Chris Maragos (6-0, 198, Sr.)
SS	12	Jay Valai (5-9, 200, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	18	Philip Welch (6-3, 200, So.)
P	98	Brad Nortman (6-3, 214, So.)

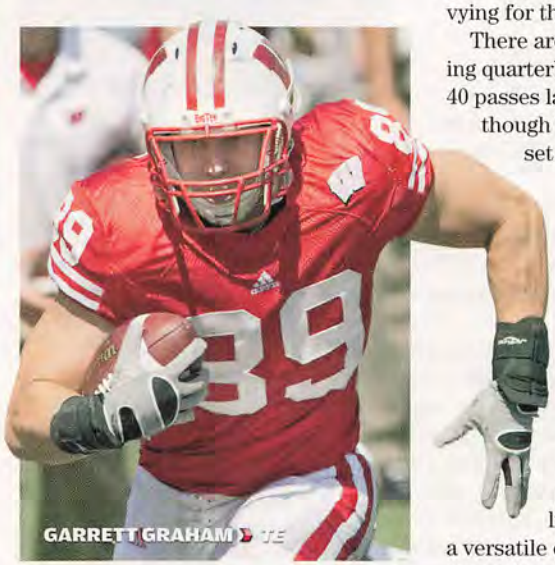
Sporting News All-American

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
Big Ten: 3-5
(lost to Florida State in the Champs Sports Bowl, 42-13)

Coach: Bret Bielema
4th year (28-11)
Career record: 28-11
Offensive coordinator:
Paul Chryst (5th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Dave Doeren (2nd year)

Stadium: Camp Randall Stadium (80,321)
Tickets: 608-262-1440
Site: Madison
Official athletic Web site:
www.uwbadgers.com


GARRETT GRAHAM » TE

5-YEAR WINS TREND

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Kraig Appleton
WR, 6-3, 190
Appleton was a nice recruiting victory over Illinois. He'll be a solid possession receiver.

2 — Montee Ball
RB, 5-11, 205
Ball is a perfect fit for the Badgers' offense. He's a bruising back who is tough between the tackles and has a nice burst of speed.

3 — David Gilbert
DE, 6-4, 214
Gilbert got away from the teams in Florida and should be a good pass-rushing threat off the edge for the Badgers.

4 — Shelby Harris
DE, 6-3, 235
A solid in-state recruit, Harris is an all-around defensive end. He's just as good at stopping the run as he is rushing the passer.

5 — Jordan Kohout
DT, 6-4, 265
A sturdy interior defensive lineman, Kohout fits what the Badgers want from their tackles—an athletic player who can stop the run.

Whenever an established coach turns the reins over to his successor, there are always questions about whether the success the veteran enjoyed will continue under the new regime. That wasn't a concern at Wisconsin during Brett Bielema's first two seasons, when he went 21-5. But after last year's 7-6 slide, there are questions about whether the opening campaigns were built upon former boss Barry Alvarez's recruits and if Bielema has what it takes to get Wisconsin back to the top of the Big Ten.

Penalties, turnovers and inconsistency plagued the Badgers last season, and those troubles must be elminated if they are to win big again.

It would be nice if Bielema could feel better about his quarterback situation. Dustin Sherer returns after a lackluster debut in '08. And while he looked solid during the spring, Badger fans should not expect a remarkable transformation. Still, Sherer can be good. Trouble is, Wisconsin wants to be great. Curt Phillips and Scott Tolzien are the others vying for the job, but neither has much experience.

There are some security blankets for the surviving quarterback. Tight end Garrett Graham caught 40 passes last year and scored five times, so even though Travis Beckum is gone, the Badgers are set at that position.

Receiver David Gilreath snared 31 throws and averaged 16.8 yards per reception while earning second-team All-Big Ten notice, and Isaac Anderson caught 12 balls in three games last season.

If Scherer has trouble throwing to that bunch, it won't help the ground game, which lacks depth and has no big breakaway threat. Sophomore John Clay gained 884 yards and scored nine times in an impressive debut last year. He has the talent to be a front-line back, while junior Zach Brown is a versatile change of pace. After that, there isn't much. Speedy Erik Smith is a redshirt freshman, and true freshman Montee Ball arrives this summer with a chance for immediate action.

Whoever carries the ball will work behind a solid line anchored by junior left tackle Gabe Carimi and junior center John Moffitt.

While that unit should be fine, the Badgers need help along the defensive front, where senior end O'Brien Schofield (5 sacks) is the lone returning starter. Brendan Kelly missed much of last year (thumb) but impressed early at end, while Central Michigan transfer J.J. Watt looked great last season and can play inside or out.

The antithesis of the line is the secondary, which brings back three regulars, including safety Jay Valai, a second-team All-Big Ten selection last year.

Niles Brinkley looks to be set at one corner spot, while Aaron Henry gets a shot at the other after missing all of the '08 season with a knee injury. Chris Maragos should be the free safety, provided he tackles better than a year ago.

THE NEXT BIG THING

JOHN CLAY, RB

The sophomore complemented P.J. Hill last season and is poised to become one of the Big Ten's top backs in 2009.

DAVID STLUKA / GETTY IMAGES

8 MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

The Golden Gophers move outdoors to a sharp, new on-campus stadium this fall and hope they can solve some of the problems that led to a late-season collapse after a 7-1 start in 2008. A trio of new coordinators takes over in Minneapolis, hoping to fix a porous defense and an offense that rivals figured out during the second half of the year. Jedd Fisch, who's just 32, takes over as offensive coordinator after the resignation of Mike Dunbar, with Tim Davis handling the running game. Kevin Cosgrove, who has developed a reputation for developing good linebackers, will work with Ronnie Lee to run the defense.

Of course, after going 1-10 in 2007, a 7-6 record and bowl berth should be reason for celebration at Minnesota, no matter how much things deteriorated at the end. And with 18 starters back, there's no reason to think the Gophers can't continue to make progress.

They'll need to start by boosting a ground game that averaged a meager 3.1 yards per carry last year. Two additions should help that cause. Notre Dame transfer Matt Carufel, who started three games for the Irish in '07, will play right guard, while junior-college import Jeff Wills should handle right tackle.

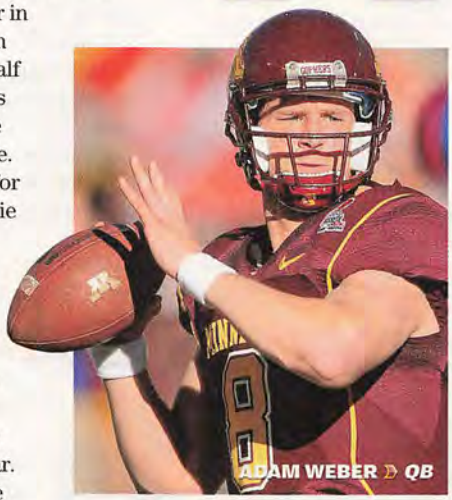
The chief beneficiaries of their efforts will be running backs DeLeon Eskridge (678 rushing yards, 7 TDs) and Shady Salamon, both of whom impressed as freshmen. They'll be joined by speedy freshman Hasan Lipscomb and Duane Bennett, who missed all of '08 with a knee injury.

Junior Adam Weber had a strong season under center, throwing for 2,761 yards and 15 touchdowns in '08. He's mobile, accurate (62.2 completion percentage) and should become one of the league's best this year. It helps that he will have some great targets at his disposal, beginning with senior Eric Decker (84 catches, 7 TDs), a first-team All-Big Ten choice last year. Senior Ben Kuznia (31 catches) and sophomore Brandon Green (21) also return. They'll be joined by Hayo Carpenter, the nation's top-rated juco receiver last year.

The defense must get better against the pass, and it would help if safety Tramaine Brock (an academic casualty) was on the team. His fate won't likely be determined until late summer. Senior Traye Simmons was a second-team all-league corner last year, but he needs help. Marcus Sherels was solid last season, as well, but depth is needed. Don't be surprised if true freshman Michael Carter gets some work early. The front seven will miss standout end Willie VanDeSteeg, but linebackers Simoni Lawrence and Lee Campbell are stout, and tackle Garrett Brown can get into the backfield.

Former prep All-American Eric Ellestad should get the kicking job, while incoming freshman Dan Orseske could end up at punter. Sherels is a strong punt-return man, while sophomore corner Troy Stoudermire was great returning kicks last year.

The Gophers have the talent to keep improving, but they must get more physical on both sides of the ball and become a rugged Big Ten team that can thrive in a frigid outdoor setting.


ADAM WEBER ▷ QB

THE NEXT BIG THING

MATT CARUFEL, G

The Notre Dame transfer steps in immediately and will help a line that couldn't get the Gopher ground game going last year.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@SYRACUSE	
S.12	Air Force	
S.19	California	
S.26	@NORTHWESTERN	17-24
0.3	Wisconsin	32-35
0.10	Purdue	17-6
0.17	@PENN STATE	
0.24	@OHIO STATE	21-34
0.31	Michigan State	
N.7	Illinois	27-20
N.14	South Dakota State	
N.21	@IOWA	0-55

GAME TO WATCH

S.12 Air Force

The Gophers open their new stadium with a visit from the always-dangerous Falcon offense. This should be a good test for the Minnesota defense.

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Adam Weber is maturing into a fine spread weapon.
- Eric Decker is a first-rate receiver.
- New coordinators promise better schemes on both sides.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
Big Ten: 3-5
(lost to Kansas in the Insight Bowl, 42-21)

Coach: Tim Brewster
3rd year (8-17)
Career record: 8-17
Offensive coordinator:
Jedd Fisch (1st year)
Defensive coordinators:
Kevin Cosgrove (1st year)
Ronnie Lee (1st year)

Stadium: TCF Bank Stadium (50,300)
Tickets: 800-UGOPHER
Site: Minneapolis
Official athletic Web site:
www.gophersports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	8	Adam Weber (6-3, 220, Jr.)
RB	23	DeLeon Eskridge (5-11, 190, So.)
LOT	73	Jason Meinke (6-5, 278, Sr.)
LOG	78	Ryan Orton (6-4, 284, So.)
C	61	Trey Davis (6-2, 276, So.)
ROG	73	Matt Carufel (6-5, 303, Jr.)
ROT	71	Jeff Wills (6-7, 375, Jr.)
TE	48	Nick Tow-Arnett (6-2, 249, Sr.)
WR	7	Eric Decker (6-2, 215, Sr.)
WR	16	Ben Kuznia (6-0, 186, Sr.)
WR	2	Brandon Green (6-0, 180, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	93	Derrick Onwuachi (6-5, 250, Sr.)
LDT	51	Eric Small (6-2, 301, Sr.)
RDT	99	Garrett Brown (6-2, 303, Sr.)
RDE	90	Raymond Henderson (6-5, 251, Sr.)
SLB	21	Simoni Lawrence (6-1, 205, Sr.)
MLB	30	Lee Campbell (6-3, 256, Sr.)
WLB	32	Nate Triplett (6-3, 236, Sr.)
LCB	15	Traye Simmons (5-11, 175, Sr.)
RCB	24	Marcus Sherels (5-11, 166, Sr.)
FS	49	Scott Jilek (5-11, 205, Jr.)
SS	27	Kyle Theret (5-11, 185, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	37	Eric Ellestad (6-2, 195, Jr.)
P	37	Dan Orseske (6-3, 195, Fr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
Hayo Carpenter
WR, 5-11, 185
One of the nation's top junior-college receivers, Carpenter will be an immediate contributor for the Gophers.

2
Michael Carter
CB, 5-11, 154
Carter was a steal from West Virginia. Once he adds weight, he'll bring good speed and coverage skills to the table.

3
Hasan Lipscomb
RB, 5-10, 201
Lipscomb is a powerful, speedy back who should thrive in the Big Ten. He is talented enough to see early action.

4
Moses Alipate
QB, 6-5, 230
One of the most gifted athletes in the Midwest, Alipate could be one of the Big Ten's biggest steals.

5
Bryant Allen
ATH, 6-0, 160
Allen was also recruited for basketball at Minnesota. He will give the Gophers a nice boost of athleticism.

MARK J. REBILAS / US PRESSWIRE

NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Towson	
S.12	Eastern Michigan	
S.19	@SYRACUSE	30-10
S.26	Minnesota	24-17
O.3	@PURDUE	48-26
O.10	Miami (OH)	
GAME TO WATCH		
O.17	**@Michigan State**	**20-37**
The Wildcats want to be first-division players in the Big Ten. To do that, they have to knock off a big name, and this gives them the chance.		
O.24	Indiana	19-21
O.31	Penn State	
N.7	@IOWA	22-17
N.14	@ILLINOIS	27-10
N.21	Wisconsin	

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» MOTOR CITY BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Great secondary is the best unit on stout defense.
- Will play smart, tough football.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	13	Mike Kafka (6-3, 210, Sr.)
RB	25	Stephen Simmons (5-8, 175, Jr.)
LOT	75	Al Netter (6-6, 290, So.)
LOG	63	Keegan Grant (6-2, 285, Jr.)
C	65	Ben Burkett (6-4, 280, So.)
ROG	64	Doug Bartels (6-4, 285, So.)
ROT	79	Neal Deiters (6-8, 330, Fr.)
SB	80	Brendan Mitchell (6-3, 250, Sr.)
WR	11	Jeremy Ebert (6-0, 180, So.)
WR	5	Sidney Stewart (6-1, 185, Jr.)
WR	88	Martin Bayless (6-2, 200, Fr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	99	Corey Wootton (6-1, 265, Sr.)
LDT	98	Corbin Bryant (6-4, 275, Jr.)
RDT	79	Adam Hahn (6-4, 295, Sr.)
RDE	91	Brian Arnfelt (6-5, 255, Fr.)
SLB	41	Quentin Davie (6-4, 215, Jr.)
MLB	57	Nate Williams (6-2, 225, Jr.)
WLB	35	Ben Johnson (6-4, 210, Fr.)
LCB	26	Jordan Mabin (5-11, 180, So.)
RCB	24	Sherrick McManis (6-1, 190, Sr.)
FS	17	Brad Phillips (6-4, 210, Sr.)
SS	4	Brendan Smith (6-1, 215, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	1	Stefan Demos (5-10, 185, Jr.)
P	1	Stefan Demos (5-10, 185, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
Big Ten: 5-3
(lost to Missouri in the Alamo Bowl, 30-23)

Coach: Pat Fitzgerald
4th year (19-18)
Career record: 19-18
Offensive coordinator:
Mick McCall (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Mike Hankwitz (2nd year)

Stadium: Ryan Field (49,256)
Tickets: 847-491-CATS
Site: Evanston, Ill.
Official athletic Web site:
www.nusports.com

COREY WOOTTON » DE

CHUCK RYDLEWSKI

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Out of the tragedy of predecessor Randy Walker's death, Pat Fitzgerald has built one of the more successful Big Ten programs. Last season's nine-win performance proves the young Northwestern alum's ascension to the head-coaching position was no mistake. If he replicates that success in 2009 with an offense in need of considerable renovation, Fitzgerald will become a hot commodity beyond the confines of Evanston, Ill.

Northwestern will have to rely—at least early in the season—on defense. With eight starters back from a unit that held eight teams to 20 points or fewer last year, the Wildcats have the potential to have one of the conference's best defenses. It starts up front with junior end Corey Wootton, a first-team all-league choice last year who made 16 stops behind the line. Inside, Corbin Bryant and Adam Hahn are solid, while Vince Browne made 7.5 tackles for loss in 2008.

Quentin Davie, who made 9.5 tackles for loss last year, returns at strongside linebacker, while Nate Williams is back in the middle.

The Wildcats will be especially tough in the secondary, where all four starters return, led by Brad Phillips (109 tackles, 3 INTs) at safety. Sophomore corner Jordan Mabin picked off three passes last year, while senior Sherrick McManis broke up 12. Senior safety Brendan Smith made 82 stops in 2008. If that isn't enough, junior Justan Vaughn, who started the first two games of the year at corner before hurting his shoulder, is back to vie for a starting berth.

When C.J. Bacher went down with an injury last year, Mike Kafka stepped in and ran for a Big Ten quarterback record of 217 yards against Minnesota. Kafka also completed 69.2 percent of his passes last year but did throw three interceptions.

He'll need some help at running back, since Tyrell Sutton is gone. Stephen Simmons made three starts last year and gained 189 yards, but averaged only 2.9 yards per carry. Strong spring performances by redshirt freshman Alex Daniel and sophomore Jeravin Matthews put them in the running mix for work this fall.

The receiving corps must be rebuilt, too. Jeremy Ebert and Sidney Stewart showed potential last season, but none was adept at getting the ball down the field. A host of younger players, including Martin Bayless, will look for work, too. Seniors Brendan Mitchell and Mark Woodsum are the leading candidates for the "Superback" position, a hybrid tight end/halfback spot that gets part-time use.

Up front, four starters return from a line that protected the passer well last year but needs to get better at opening holes for the ground game. Since three of those regulars last year—center Ben Burkett, right guard Doug Bartels and left tackle Al Netter—were freshmen, improvement is almost guaranteed.

Expect junior Stefan Demos to have a tired leg this year. Not only will he punt (after averaging 39.0 yards per kick in '08), but he'll also handle field goals and looked solid during the spring.

THE NEXT BIG THING

MIKE KAFKA, QB

The senior hopes to make the transformation to a reliable spread triggerman by matching his excellent ground skills with efficient passing.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Patrick Ward
OL, 6-6, 295
Ward was recruited nationally but decided to stay home and play in the area for Northwestern.

2 — Davon Custis
DE, 6-5, 220
Custis emerged with a great senior season and was one of the top players in Ohio. He should help quickly.

3 — Damien Proby
LB, 6-0, 208
A Nevada native who was overlooked by many Pac-10 teams, Proby is a headhunter who can run.

4 — Will Studlien
LB, 6-2, 200
Studlien rebounded from an injury that caused him to miss most of his senior season. He's a major steal.

5 — Arby Fields
RB, 5-8, 185
He dominated in California's "Inland Empire." A true all-purpose back, Fields fits Northwestern's offense perfectly.

10 PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

The great coach-in-waiting experiment will unfold this year in West Lafayette, Ind., where Danny Hope takes over for Joe Tiller after a rough 2008 campaign that included growing pains and a little interior dissension. As Hope prepares for his first season at the helm—after serving as offensive coordinator last season and posting a 35-22 record during five years at Eastern Kentucky—he does so with an offense that needs to find some skill players.

Hope thought he would at least have Justin Siller to count on, but the quarterback who started three games last year was tossed from school in the spring because of academic violations. That leaves the Boilermakers thin at quarterback and puts a lot of pressure on senior Joey Elliott, who threw only 15 passes last year behind Siller and Curtis Painter. Elliott was solid during offseason drills, completing 20 of 33 passes in the spring game for 193 yards. We'll see how good he is over a whole season, or if Elliott is even able to take the job from redshirt freshman Caleb TerBush, who threw for 1,575 yards and 16 touchdowns as a prep senior.

The winner of the battle should be well protected, since four returning starters populate the line. Trouble is, the running back and receiver positions are void of experience. Junior Dan Dierking, son of former Purdue star Scott Dierking, who helped lead the Boilermakers to their dramatic 1976 upset of No. 1 Michigan, showed some promise during the spring, as did sophomore Ralph Bolden. Don't be surprised if touted freshman Al-Terek McBurse contributes as well.

The receiver position is far more unclear, since only junior Keith Smith is back among those who made contributions last year. Smith caught 49 passes and scored twice, but he is a possession receiver, not a home run threat. Senior Aaron Valentin (11 catches) has the ability to make big plays, while senior Royce Adams and tight ends Jeff Panfil and Jeff Lindsay could also contribute.

The defense returns more, but the loss of top-flight coordinator Brock Spack (now the coach at Illinois State) means the Boilers have to adjust to a new system installed by Donn Landholm, another Eastern Kentucky expatriate.

Junior end Ryan Kerrigan can get into enemy backfields, while outside linebacker Joe Holland is solid against the run and in coverage. Corners Brandon King and David Pender were part of a pass defense that allowed opposing quarterbacks to complete only 56.3 percent of their passes last season. But Purdue intercepted just 10 passes, a total that must increase.

Chris Summers is back to punt, but he needs to improve on last season's 38.4-yard average. He will battle Carson Wiggs for the kicking job.

Now that Hope has taken over and the transition from Tiller is complete, last year's instability should be gone. But it will take a while for the Boilermakers to make a push into the first division of the Big Ten again.

RYAN KERRIGAN ▸ DE

THE NEXT BIG THING

DAN DIERKING, RB

Purdue needs help in the backfield, and the son of former Purdue and NFL back Scott Dierking should step in and provide reliable productivity.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
Big Ten: 2-6

Coach: Danny Hope, 1st year
Offensive coordinator: Gary Nord (1st year)
Defensive coordinator: Donn Landholm (1st year)

Stadium: Ross-Ade Stadium (62,500)
Tickets: 765-494-3194
Site: West Lafayette, Ind.
Official athletic Web site: www.purduesports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

KEY
Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Toledo	
S.12	@OREGON	26-32 (OT)
S.19	Northern Illinois	
S.26	Notre Dame	21-38
O.3	Northwestern	26-48
O.10	@MINNESOTA	6-17
O.17	Ohio State	3-16
O.24	Illinois	
O.31	@WISCONSIN	
N.7	@MICHIGAN	48-42
N.14	Michigan State	7-21
N.21	@INDIANA	62-10

GAME TO WATCH

If the Boilers can't beat the rising Gophers, they'll likely be relegated to the second tier once again and look at a longer rebuilding path than expected.

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Questions at skill positions will create trouble in league play.
- Must create more turnovers to make things easier on offense.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	14	Joey Elliott (6-2, 211, Sr.)
RB	25	Dan Dierking (5-10, 185, Jr.)
LOT	68	Dennis Kelly (6-8, 270, So.)
LOG	75	Zach Reckman (6-6, 308, Sr.)
C	54	Jared Zwilling (6-4, 293, Sr.)
ROG	73	Ken Plue (6-7, 361, So.)
ROT	61	Zach Jones (6-5, 300, Sr.)
TE	85	Jeff Panfil (6-5, 226, Jr.)
WR	17	Aaron Valentin (6-1, 205, Sr.)
WR	8	Keith Smith (6-2, 226, Jr.)
WR	10	Royce Adams (6-0, 190, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	97	Gerald Gooden (6-3, 235, So.)
LDT	92	Mike Neal (6-4, 293, Sr.)
RDT	93	Kawann Short (6-4, 318, Fr.)
RDE	94	Ryan Kerrigan (6-4, 255, Jr.)
SLB	29	Jason Werner (6-4, 221, Sr.)
MLB	47	Chris Carlino (6-2, 215, So.)
WLB	30	Joe Holland (6-1, 211, So.)
LCB	7	Brandon King (5-11, 192, Sr.)
RCB	9	David Pender (6-1, 180, Sr.)
FS	2	Torri Williams (6-2, 208, Sr.)
SS	22	Dwight Mclean (6-1, 203, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	37	Carson Wiggs (6-0, 194, So.)
P	13	Chris Summers (6-1, 179, Sr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Al-Terek McBurse *RB, 6-0, 204*
He's a four-star recruit from Florida and has a shot to help the Boilermakers immediately.

2 — Antwon Higgs *DE, 6-2, 250*
Another Florida native, he was one of the state's better run-stoppers and has a nice burst off the edge.

3 — Gabe Holmes *TE, 6-6, 210*
He's an athletic tight end who can play in space as a slot receiver. Another solid pickup for the Boilermakers out of Florida.

4 — Eric McDaniel *DT, 6-2, 295*
McDaniel was one of the better interior defensive linemen in always-loaded Georgia.

5 — Eric Williams *WR, 5-10, 195*
Williams will be a threat for the Boilermakers in space. He has good speed and the ability to make big plays at key moments.

DAVID DUROCHIK / SPORTPICS

INDIANA HOOSIERS 11

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.3	Eastern Kentucky	
S.12	Western Michigan	
S.19	@AKRON	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.26	**@MICHIGAN**	
0.3	Ohio State	
0.10	@VIRGINIA	
0.17	Illinois	13-55
0.24	@NORTHWESTERN	21-19
0.31	@IOWA	9-45
N.7	Wisconsin	20-55
N.14	@PENN STATE	7-34
N.21	Purdue	10-62

GAME TO WATCH

S.26 @MICHIGAN

The Hoosiers open Big Ten play with a visit to the Wolverines, who struggled last year. The team that wins can feel good about its chances to improve.

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Lewis' dismissal means young wideouts must step up.
- Youth at running back could be a problem.
- Both lines must get tougher.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	4	Ben Chappell (6-3, 235, Jr.)
RB	28	Darius Willis (6-0,219, r-Fr.)
LOT	76	Rodger Saffold (6-5, 306, Sr.)
LOG	70	Justin Pagan (6-5, 308, So.)
C	64	Pete Saxon (6-6, 310, Sr.)
ROG	79	Cody Faulkner (6-5, 315, Jr.)
ROT	73	James Brewer (6-8, 336, Jr.)
TE	87	Troy Wagner (6-5, 261, Sr.)
WR	1	Terrance Turner (6-3, 200, Jr.)
WR	88	Damario Belcher (6-5, 209, So.)
WR	81	Tandon Doss (6-3, 185, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	92	Greg Middleton (6-3, 275, Sr.)
LDT	75	Nicholas Sliger (6-3, 282, Fr.)
RDT	52	Jarrod Smith (6-4, 300, Jr.)
RDE	57	Jammie Kirlew (6-3, 264, Sr.)
SLB	34	Will Patterson (6-1, 236, Sr.)
MLB	43	Matt Mayberry (6-2, 236, Sr.)
WLB	25	Justin Carrington (6-0, 222, Sr.)
LCB	10	Donnell Jones (5-10, 210, So.)
RCB	29	Chris Adkins (6-1, 185, So.)
FS	8	Nick Polk (6-0, 225, Sr.)
SS	20	Austin Thomas (6-2, 221, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

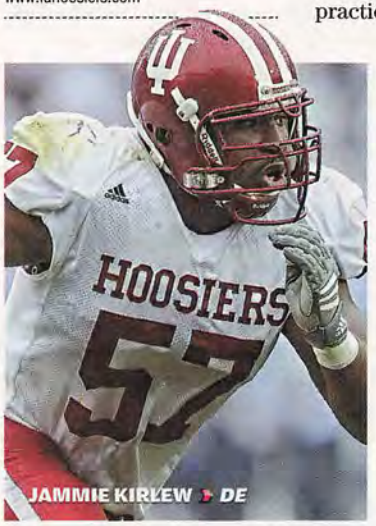
K	91	Nick Ford (5-9, 194, Jr.)
P	12	Chris Hagerup (6-5, 201, So.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 3-9
Big Ten: 1-7

Coach: Bill Lynch
3rd year (10-15)
Career record: 10-15
Offensive coordinator:
Matt Canada (3rd year)
Defensive coordinators:
Brian George (5th year)
Joe Palcic (5th year)

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (49,225)
Tickets: 866-IUSPORTS
Site: Bloomington
Official athletic Web site:
www.iuhoosiers.com



JAMMIE KIRLEW ▸ DE

5-YEAR WINS TREND

It may be unfair to put coach Bill Lynch on a warm chair heading into 2009 given that it is just his third year at Indiana and that he also took over under extreme circumstances following the death of former coach Terry Hoeppner. But patience is in short supply in college football these days. If Lynch follows up last year's 3-9 campaign with another clunker, no one will remember the bowl trip in '07.

Not that doom is certain. Indiana returns 18 starters (including punter Chris Hagerup) from last year's 11th-place team, and if it can fix the ground attack and shore up a pass defense that was generous last year, it could make some strides.

Perhaps the most intriguing development of the offseason was Lynch's decision to move Kellen Lewis from quarterback to receiver and to hand the signal-calling job to Ben Chappell. However, those plans were dashed in late April after Lewis was dismissed from the Hoosiers for violating team rules.

Lewis, a senior who holds the school record for career passing touchdowns (48), was also suspended for all of spring practice last year, again for violating team rules.

Lewis' dismissal will hurt the receiving corps in terms of depth, but there's still some talented starters. Young wideouts Damario Belcher and Tandon Doss performed well last year and have potential, as does junior Terrance Turner. Chappell, who looked good during the spring, needs to become more accurate after completing only 52.3 percent of his passes last year.

The ground game needs attention now that Marcus Thigpen is gone, and Lewis, last year's second-leading rusher, has moved outside. Good news comes from the debut of redshirt freshman Darius Willis, who combines speed and power. He'll team with senior Demetrius McCray in what could be a potent combination. Trea Burgess could figure there, too.

Since the Hoosiers gave up more than 40 points in six of their nine losses last year, considerable improvement is necessary. Opponents scored 27 times on the ground against Indiana in 2008, so the front seven needs to get tougher.

Linebacker Matt Mayberry and end Jammie Kirlew (18.5 tackles for loss) are the stalwarts there and should get help from Will Patterson, if his injured knee has recovered completely.

The pass defense has plenty of holdovers, but it wasn't too stingy last year. Healthy returns from torn ACLs by safeties Austin Thomas and Nick Polk will help, and continued maturation by sophomore corners Chris Adkins and Donnell Jones should make Indiana more successful in the secondary.

Just to make sure, the Hoosiers moved wideout Ray Fisher, who led the team with 40 catches last year, to corner.

Indiana's youth in '08 was a large reason for its troubles, but the Hoosiers have to show they can compete physically.

Lynch may well have life beyond this campaign if Indiana struggles again, but he doesn't want to take that chance.

His seat will be really hot by then.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Duwyce Wilson
WR, 6-3, 190
One of the top receivers in the Midwest as a prep senior. A combination of sure hands and speed.

2 — Ted Bolser
TE, 6-5, 212
One of the top tight ends in Ohio, Bolser is a nice fit for what Indiana asks from its players.

3 — Charles Chapman
OL, 6-6, 274
Chapman was overshadowed by the deep offensive line class in Michigan, but the Hoosiers got a good one.

4 — Adam Replogle
DT, 6-3, 265
A run-stuffing defensive tackle who also provides a nice pass rush, Replogle was a good recruiting victory for Indiana.

5 — Nick Zachery
ATH, 6-1, 195
Dominated small-school ball in Indiana and was underrecruited, Zachery's the type of speedy athlete Indiana has been missing for years.

THE NEXT BIG THING

DARIUS WILLIS, RB

This runner-up for Indiana's Mr. Football in 2007 will get a chance to become the Hoosiers' feature back after redshirting last season. He rushed for 1,728 yards and 28 touchdowns as a prep senior.

RANDY LITZINGER

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

BIG 12

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

NORTH

1. Kansas
2. Nebraska
3. Missouri
4. Colorado
5. Kansas State
6. Iowa State

SOUTH

1. Texas
2. Oklahoma
3. Oklahoma State
4. Texas Tech
5. Baylor
6. Texas A&M

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Brandon Banks, Kansas State

Best Hands
Kerry Meier, WR, Kansas

Best Passing QB
Sam Bradford, Oklahoma

Best Running QB
Robert Griffin, Baylor

Most Elusive RB
DeMarco Murray, Oklahoma

Best Instincts
Todd Reesing, QB, Kansas

Best Athlete
Robert Griffin, QB, Baylor

Best Under Pressure
Colt McCoy, QB, Texas

Top NFL Prospect
Sergio Kindle, LB, Texas

Top Impact Freshman
Christine Michael, RB, Texas A&M

Hardest Hitter
Jordan Lake, FS, Baylor

Biggest Underachiever
Darrell Scott, RB, Colorado

Best Home-Field Advantage
Oklahoma

Best Fans
Nebraska

Best Mascot
Ralphie the Buffalo, Colorado

Best Stadium
Kyle Field, Texas A&M

Big 12 should keep college football fans across the nation well entertained

By Blair Kerkhoff, *The Kansas City Star*

For entertainment value, nothing beats the Big 12. On and off the field.

Spread offenses keep scoreboards spinning. Controversies like the league's tiebreaker system that sent Oklahoma to the Big 12 title game instead of Texas (despite the Longhorns' victory over the Sooners earlier in the season) kept the conference in the news.

In the end, the Big 12 won a majority of bowl games but not the big one, with Oklahoma falling to Florida for the BCS National Championship.

Bradford put up sensational numbers last season for an offense that proved unstoppable until it met the Gators. If Oklahoma can square away an offensive line that lost four starters, it will again be a national title contender.

The same goes for Texas, which returns a top-notch quarterback in Colt McCoy. All McCoy did last year was set an NCAA record for completion percentage in a season (76.7) and finish second in the Heisman balloting.

Bradford and McCoy aren't the only returning stars. Wide receiver Dez Bryant, running back Kendall Hunter and quarterback Zac Robinson may give Oklahoma State the best skill-set trio in the nation.

Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing will throw to Dezmon Briscoe and Kerry Meier, who combined for 189 receptions and 23 touchdowns last season.

Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin was terrific as a freshman and his decision to drop track (where he's a champion hurdler) to focus on football should make him better.

Defenses will attempt to keep up with Nebraska tackle Ndamukong Suh (who dominated in the Cornhuskers' Gator Bowl victory over Clemson), Missouri linebacker Sean Weatherspoon, Oklahoma's Travis Lewis and Baylor's Joe Pawelek.

Like last year, the Big 12 defenses will have a hard time matching the star power of some of the nation's most productive offenses.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Barton Simmons, *Rivals.com*

1. TEXAS The Longhorns signed three five-star prospects from Texas, including quarterback Garrett Gilbert.
2. OKLAHOMA Bob Stoops signed five defensive prospects ranked in the top 100 nationally.
3. TEXAS A&M The talent level is increasing for the Aggies. Five-star running back Christine Michael will contribute immediately.
4. NEBRASKA Led by quarterback Cody Green and running back Rex Burkhead, the Huskers signed a group of athletes with huge numbers in high school.
5. KANSAS The Jayhawks secured their class by offering its recruits the opportunity to play their position of choice.
6. TEXAS TECH The Mike Leach offensive machine shouldn't skip a beat with the skill-position players heading to Lubbock.
7. OKLAHOMA STATE Most of the '09 class was devoted to defense, but the offensive players that did sign will make an immediate impact.
8. MISSOURI The Tigers landed a five-star prospect in defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson.
9. COLORADO It is a good sign when you steal a commitment from Florida. Now the Buffs have in-state recruit Nick Kasa.
10. BAYLOR The class is highlighted by skill-position players who should build around quarterback Robert Griffin.
11. IOWA STATE The departure of Gene Chizik put the Cyclones in a bind. This recruiting class reflects that predicament.
12. KANSAS STATE Bill Snyder got a late start on this year's recruiting and needs to get Kansas State's talent level back up.

ALL-BIG 12

OFFENSE

QB	Sam Bradford, Jr., Oklahoma
RB	DeMarco Murray, Jr., Oklahoma
RB	Kendall Hunter, Jr., Oklahoma State
OL	Brandon Carter, Sr., Texas Tech
OL	Adam Ulatoski, Sr., Texas
OL	Trent Williams, Sr., Oklahoma
OL	Russell Okung, Sr., Oklahoma State
OL	Nick Stringer, Sr., Kansas State
WR	Dez Bryant, Jr., Oklahoma State
WR	Jordan Shipley, Sr., Texas
TE	Jermaine Gresham, Sr., Oklahoma

DEFENSE

DL	Ndamukong Suh, Sr., Nebraska
DL	Gerald McCoy, Jr., Oklahoma
DL	Brandon Harold, So., Kansas State
DL*	Sergio Kindle, Sr., Texas
LB	Sean Weatherspoon, Sr., Missouri
LB	Joe Pawelek, Sr., Baylor
LB	Travis Lewis, So., Oklahoma
DB	Darrell Stuckey, Sr., Kansas
DB	Jordan Lake, Sr., Baylor
DB	Dominique Franks, Jr., Oklahoma
DB	Earl Thomas, So., Texas

SPECIALISTS

K	Alex Henery, Jr., Nebraska
P	Derek Epperson, Jr., Baylor

* *Kindle is projected as a DE/LB*

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin becomes a national figure by leading the Bears to a major upset (Oklahoma? Texas?).

2 Texas quarterback Colt McCoy will keep the Heisman Trophy in the Big 12 with another large season. Remember, Heisman voters don't often go for repeat winners like Tim Tebow and Sam Bradford.

3 New Iowa State Coach Paul Rhoads will have the Cyclones playing competitively by midseason, which didn't happen last year.

4 Whoever has the most to gain in the Kansas-Missouri season finale will lose it at Arrowhead Stadium because that's the nature of the Border War.

ASCENDING

BAYLOR This veteran team is led by a dynamic young quarterback in Robert Griffin. The Bears have yet to play in a bowl game as a Big 12 member. That streak should end this year.

DESCENDING

TEXAS TECH In a close vote over Missouri. The Red Raiders grabbed a share of first place in the South last season, but coach Mike Leach has to replace several offensive stars.

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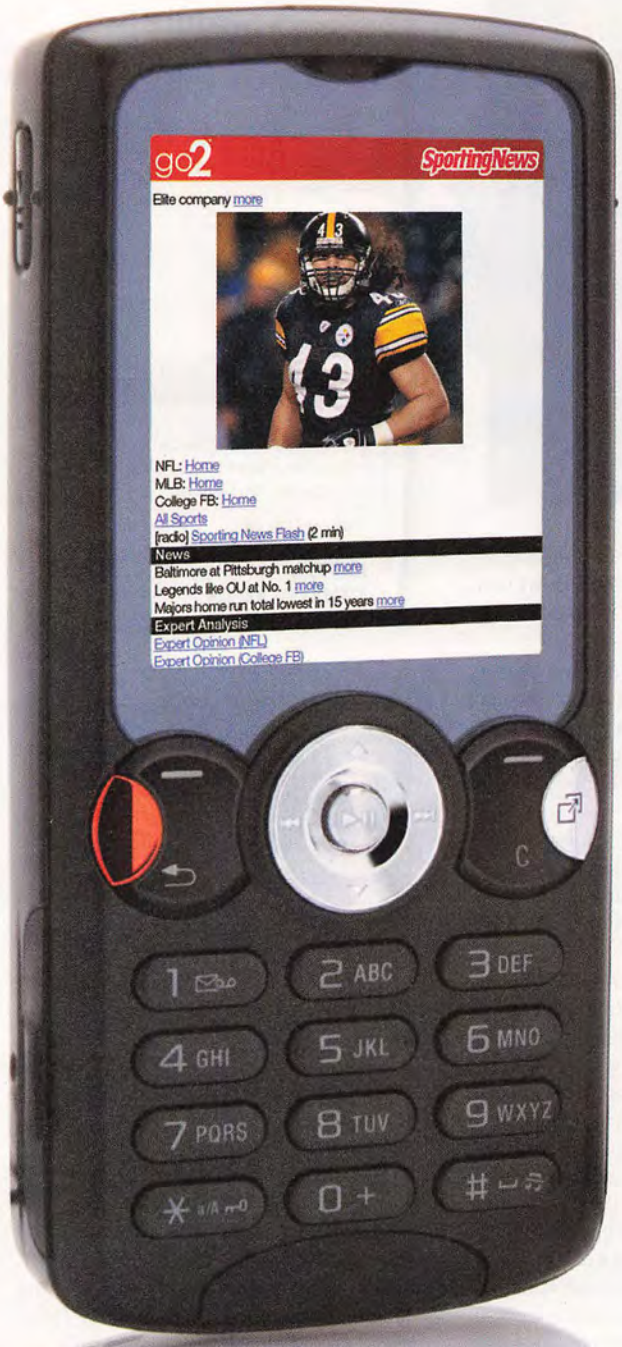

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BIG 12 NORTH PRESEASON RANK

1 KANSAS JAYHAWKS

TOP 25 PICK

TODD REESING ▸ QB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Northern Colorado	
S.12	@UTEP	
S.19	Duke	
S.26	Southern Miss	
O.10	Iowa State	35-33
O.17	@COLORADO	30-14
O.24	Oklahoma	31-45
O.31	@TEXAS TECH	21-63
N.7	@KANSAS STATE	52-21
N.14	Nebraska	35-45
N.21	@TEXAS	7-35

GAME TO WATCH

N.28 Missouri* 40-37

The Border War at Arrowhead Stadium has become a scene-stealer. The Jayhawks won in the snow last year, and Mizzou proved victorious in a mega clash two years ago.

* *at Kansas City, MO*

BOWL PROJECTION ▸▸ HOLIDAY BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Offense should be outstanding if the line comes along.
- Darrell Stuckey is one of the league's top defenders.
- Mangino has the program headed in the right direction.

A different kind of expectation greets Kansas in 2009.

Last season's hopes were unrealistic. The Jayhawks started in the mid-teens in the preseason polls, and that was more of a comment on the previous year's finish rather than the reality of personnel changes and an upgraded schedule.

The 2008 Jayhawks didn't lose many starters from their '07 Orange Bowl championship squad, but every one of them was an NFL draft selection or all-conference performer. Coach Mark Mangino has improved this program, but it hadn't reached the point of replacing NFL talent with NFL talent.

So when Kansas ran up against similar foes, the breaks went the other way. A tough defeat at South Florida was the first indication. Conference losses to Oklahoma, Texas Tech, Nebraska and Texas left the Jayhawks needing to upset Missouri on the season's final week to avoid a .500 finish, one year after the program's most glorious season.

And that's what happened, in spectacular fashion.

Wide receiver Kerry Meier somehow slipped past defenders and hauled in Todd Reesing's 26-yard touchdown pass with 27 seconds remaining, and Kansas then blocked a field-goal attempt on the final play to defeat its bitter rival in snowy Arrowhead Stadium

Kansas rode the momentum of that triumph into an easy Insight Bowl win over Minnesota, and an 8-5 record became easier to digest.

Now the Jayhawks come into this season with an expectation scaled back from a year ago. Kansas won't be 13th or 14th in the preseason polls, but it will be a division favorite, which doesn't happen often.

Kansas gets the nod for a few reasons. The Jayhawks return their starting quarterback—and Reesing is a good one, maybe the best this program has produced.

The defense loses its talented linebacking corps, but it should be better up front and in the secondary.

Also, Kansas doesn't visit either campus of Big 12 contenders Nebraska and Missouri. This year's Jayhawks meet the Cornhuskers in Lawrence, where they've won the previous two meetings. And the Border War series with the Tigers runs for two more years in Kansas City.

Offensively, Kansas is dynamic. Unless there's an unexpected collapse, Reesing will leave as the most successful quarterback in Kansas' history.

The school records the senior doesn't already own should belong to Reesing by season's end. But the dynamic number is his 20-6 record as a starter, which includes two bowl victories. The big news at the position is the development of reserve Kale Pick, a redshirt freshman. This is important because it allows Kerry Meier to devote all of his practice time to wide receiver.

Meier came to Kansas as a quarterback and shifted to wideout as a sophomore. As a primary target last year, Meier caught 97 passes for 1,045 yards. Nobody is more sure-handed, and Meier's an excellent route runner. Talk about your total offensive machines. He'll likely leave Kansas with more than 1,500 yards passing, 1,500 yards receiving and 400 yards rushing.

But Meier is not the team's top receiving threat. That label belongs to Dezmon Briscoe. He caught 92 passes

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Todd Reesing	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	148.52	495-329-13	66.5	3888	32	299.1

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jake Sharp	13	186	860	4.6	12	66.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Kerry Meier	13	97	1045	10.8	8	80.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Darrell Stuckey	13	60	38	98

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Jake Laptad	13	7	36

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Darrell Stuckey	5	33	6.6	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
Big 12: 4-4
(beat Minnesota in the Insight Bowl, 42-21)

Coach: Mark Mangino
8th year (45-41)
Career record: 45-41
Offensive coordinator:
Ed Warinner (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Clint Bowen (4th year)

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (50,071)
Tickets: 800-34-HAWKS
Site: Lawrence
Official athletic Web site:
www.kuathletics.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	5	Todd Reesing (5-11, 200, Sr.)
	7	Kale Pick (6-2, 200, r-Fr.)
RB	1	Jake Sharp (5-10, 195, Sr.)
	3	Jocques Crawford (6-1, 230, Sr.)
LOT	77	Jeremiah Hatch (6-3, 311, So.)
	63	Ian Wolfe (6-5, 295, Jr.)
LOG	59	Sal Capra (6-3, 292, Jr.)
	71	John Williams (6-4, 338, Fr.)
C	76	Brad Thorson (6-3, 290, Jr.)
	75	Nathan D'Cunha (6-6, 307, Jr.)
ROG	68	Carl Wilson (6-4, 292, Jr.)
	69	Trevor Marrongelli (6-4, 285, Fr.)
ROT	74	Jeff Spikes (6-6, 314, Fr.)
	67	Ben Lueken (6-6, 300, So.)
TE	86	Tim Biere (6-4, 243, So.)
	11	A.J. Steward (6-4, 228, So.)
WR	10	Kerry Meier (6-3, 220, Sr.)
	85	Rod Harris (6-2, 200, So.)
WR	80	Dezmon Briscoe (6-3, 200, Jr.)
	28	Daymond Patterson (5-9, 175, So.)
WR	81	Johnathan Wilson (6-3, 189, Jr.)
	9	Raimond Pendleton (5-11, 192, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	91	Jake Laptad (6-4, 258, Jr.)
	96	Dustin Spears (6-5, 242, Sr.)
LDT	94	Caleb Blakesley (6-5, 292, Sr.)
	97	Richard Johnson (6-2, 280, So.)
RDT	99	Jamal Greene (6-4, 303, Jr.)
	93	Darius Parish (6-4, 341, So.)
RDE	47	Maxwell Onyegbule (6-5, 257, Jr.)
	84	Jeff Wheeler (6-7, 260, Sr.)
SLB	22	Angus Quigley (6-2, 226, Sr.)
	45	Justin Springer (6-4, 242, Jr.)
MLB	41	Arist Wright (6-0, 220, Sr.)
	58	Jake Schermer (6-2, 222, Sr.)
WLB	52	Steven Johnson (6-2, 225, So.)
	38	Josh Richardson (6-4, 220, Fr.)
LCB	46	Justin Thornton (6-1, 213, Sr.)
	17	Calvin Rubles (6-3, 200, Jr.)
RCB	28	Daymond Patterson (5-9, 175, So.)
	29	Isiah Barfield (6-0, 184, So.)
FS	26	Phillip Strozier (6-0, 200, Jr.)
	16	Chris Harris (6-0, 185, Jr.)
SS	25	Darrell Stuckey (6-1, 205, Sr.)
	30	Anthony Davis (6-0, 192, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	14	Jacob Branstetter (5-10, 175, Jr.)
P	18	Alonso Rojas (6-3, 220, Jr.)

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	KANSAS	OPP
SCORING	434	375
Points Per Game	33.4	28.8
FIRST DOWNS	301	277
Rushing	111	91
Passing	172	168
Penalty	18	18
RUSHING YARDAGE	1648	1600
Yards gained rushing	1988	1905
Yards lost rushing	340	305
Rushing Attempts	445	406
Average Per Rush	3.7	3.9
Average Per Game	126.8	123.1
TDs Rushing	23	22
PASSING YARDAGE	3973	3557
Att-Comp-Int	500-333-13	521-318-15
Average Per Pass	7.9	6.8
Average Per Catch	11.9	11.2
Average Per Game	305.6	273.6
TDs Passing	33	27
TOTAL OFFENSE	5621	5157
Total Plays	945	927
Average Per Play	5.9	5.6
Average Per Game	432.4	396.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	48-842	66-1414
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	24-278	29-310
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	15-122	13-94

TEAM STATISTICS	KANSAS	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	17.5	21.4
PUNT RETURN AVG.	11.6	10.7
INT RETURN AVG.	8.1	7.2
FUMBLES-LOST	21-9	22-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	62-576	75-589
Average Per Game	44.3	45.3
PUNTS-YARDS	58-2358	57-2267
Average Per Punt	40.7	39.8
Net punt average	33.9	33.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:25	29:35
3RD-DOWN CONV.	93/184	74/183
3rd-Down Pct.	51%	40%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/16	12/26
4th-Down Pct.	50%	46%
SACKS BY-YARDS	28-195	31-230
MISC YARDS	0	25
TDS SCORED	57	50
FG-ATTEMPTS	11-14	9-16
PAT-ATTEMPTS	55-57	48-48
ATTENDANCE	356351	277329
Games/Avg Per Game	7/50907	4/69332
Neutral Site Games		2/64113

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Kansas	86	130	113	105	434
Opponent	70	95	117	93	375

and set school records with 15 touchdowns and 1,407 yards, including 14 catches in the bowl victory.

When the Jayhawks' kick-return game stalled last season, Briscoe took over the reins and averaged 27.4 yards per return.

Early last season, Kansas wasn't getting much rushing production from the spread offense. Finally, in the league opener at Iowa State, Jake Sharp broke through and grabbed the position. He finished with 860 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Jocques Crawford, in his second year after transferring from Cisco (Texas) Junior College, looks to make a bigger impact this season, while a new face to the backfield is Drew Dudley, who moves from linebacker to fullback.

A.J. Steward switches from quarterback to tight end, where he looks to complement Tim Biere. That's one piece of the offensive line that should be in good shape. Starting tackles Jeff Spikes and Jeremiah Hatch are back. Kansas will need interior lineman candidates to step up.

Defensively, the Jayhawks will offer a different look.

"We're playing less and less with three linebackers," Mangino says. "Close to 80 percent of the time we're playing with two linebackers and an extra safety because of the way Big 12 offenses have evolved."

Darrell Stuckey led the team with 98 tackles and five interceptions last year. Plenty of experience is offered with Justin Thornton at cornerback, Phillip Strozier at safety and Daymond Patterson, the wide receiver-turned-corner.

Chris Harris was a starting corner before moving to nickel, and junior-college transfer Calvin Rubles is also expected to join the rotation.

The defensive line is built around tackle Caleb Blakesley and end Jake Laptad (7 sacks in '08). Jamal Greene, who started seven games at tackle last season, is back.

Angus Quigley has moved from running back to linebacker and "it looks like he's put his heart and soul into it," Mangino says.

The kicking and return games are in good shape. Punter Alonso Rojas and kicker Jacob Branstetter are back, as is long snapper Kayl Anderson.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Jayhawks did a good job of capitalizing on another successful season by bringing in a group of players that fills needs at almost every position. They picked up two quarterbacks, one an athletic dual-threat prospect in **Christian Matthews** and one more of a true passer in **Jordan Webb**. One of the group's strengths is at defensive back, where Kansas loaded up on quality players such as **Prinz Kande, Dexter Linton** and **Darian Kelly.**

By promising the opportunity to carry the football rather than block, Mark Mangino got a four-star power back in **Toben Opurum**. The staff also lured four-star prospect **Bradley McDougald** away from Ohio State by offering him the opportunity to play running back over safety. Adding to the depth at running back is **Deshaun Sands**, a speedy back out of south Florida whose father, Tony, once held the single-season rushing record at Kansas.

The Jayhawks also signed a player with a big upside in wide receiver **Chris Omigie** and one with loads of potential off the edge in defensive end **Jacoby Thomas**. Omigie walks onto campus as a major mismatch in the red zone, while Thomas could become a monster as he grows into his frame.

—Barton Simmons, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *CALVIN RUBLES, CB*

Rubles has terrific size at 6-3 and 200 pounds and played like someone ready to take a position in the spring. He'll bring athleticism to a Kansas secondary that is going to be solid.

2 NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS

NDAMUKONG SUH » DT

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Florida Atlantic	
S.12	Arkansas State	
S.19	@VIRGINIA TECH	30-35
S.26	Louisiana-Lafayette	
GAME TO WATCH		
0.8	**@MISSOURI**	**17-52**
The Cornhuskers were manhandled at home by the Tigers last season and have lost three straight in Columbia. This would be a statement victory.		
0.17	Texas Tech	31-37 (OT)
0.24	Iowa State	35-7
0.31	@BAYLOR	32-20
N.7	Oklahoma	28-62
N.14	@KANSAS	45-35
N.21	Kansas State	56-28
N.27	@COLORADO	40-31

BOWL PROJECTION
» ALAMO BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Give Zac Lee time to develop at quarterback.
- Ndamukong Suh will be an All-American.
- Alex Henery will emerge as one of the nation's top kickers.

Five of Nebraska's first seven games are at home. Not that the Cornhuskers need to win them all to keep the fans interested. This marriage is rock solid, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, Bo Pelini or Bill Callahan. The fans don't vote with their presence, as 297 straight sellouts at Memorial Stadium attest.

Of course, there was some initial excitement of Callahan and his West Coast offense too, until his first season disintegrated into a losing record and ended the program's 35-year bowl streak.

That would be the measuring-stick season for Pelini in his first year. Yes, the Cornhuskers wanted more. The state aches for the days of conference dominance, and although nobody expected a return to the top in 2008, a sign that things were moving in the right direction would ease tensions considerably.

And Pelini delivered. It wasn't the prettiest 9-4 mark in college football history. Fans had to watch their beloved Huskers get out-toughed by Virginia Tech one weekend and taken to the woodshed by Missouri the next.

But then good things started happening. In most years, beating Kansas at home wouldn't qualify as a watershed moment, but it helped turn the team around last season.

And Alex Henery will never have to buy a meal in the state after his school-record 57-yard field goal gave Nebraska a late lead over Colorado.

Then came the feel-good game of the year, the Gator Bowl triumph over a more athletic Clemson team. The Huskers built their program on seasons of nine victories or more. Rarely has one felt this good. The team played with passion and intelligence, and the fan base is convinced the Big Red is on the right track.

What that means for 2009 is more of the same, even with fewer established players.

In a conference of crazy offensive numbers, Nebraska improved greatly in 2009. It surrendered 349.8 total yards a game, compared to 476.8 from 2007, jumping from 12th to second in the Big 12.

The Huskers tripled their sack total and led the Big 12 in third-down defense. They got better as the season progressed, and nobody's stock jumped higher than tackle Ndamukong Suh's.

Not often does a lineman lead the team in sacks and interceptions. Suh had 7.5 of the former and two of the latter, which tied for the team lead. Both of those picks were returned for touchdowns. Throw in 19 tackles for loss, the third most in school history by a lineman, and you've got an All-America candidate. Pelini, an NFL assistant for nine years, knows next-level talent when he sees it.

"He'll probably play in the NFL seven or eight years and he still won't have reached his potential," Pelini

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Zac Lee

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
2	71.00	2-1-0	50.0	5	0	2.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Roy Helu Jr.	13	125	803	6.4	7	61.8

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Mike McNeill	12	32	442	13.8	6	36.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Ndamukong Suh	13	39	37	76

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Ndamukong Suh	13	7.5	67

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Ndamukong Suh	2	79	39.5	2
Anthony West	2	26	13.0	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
Big 12: 5-3
(beat Clemson in the Gator Bowl, 26-21)

Coach: Bo Pelini
2nd year (10-4)
Career record: 10-4
Offensive coordinator:
Shawn Watson (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Carl Pelini (2nd year)

Stadium: Memorial Stadium (81,067)
Tickets: 402-472-3111
Site: Lincoln
Official athletic Web site:
www.huskers.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	3	Zac Lee (6-2, 210, Jr.)
	7	Latravis Washington (6-3, 225, Jr.)
FB	35	Jordan Makovicka (5-10, 170, So.)
	48	Tyler Legate (5-10, 220, So.)
RB	10	Roy Helu Jr. (6-0, 215, Jr.)
	19	Quentin Castille (6-1, 245, Jr.)
LOT	65	Mike Smith (6-6, 290, Jr.)
	78	Marcel Jones (6-7, 310, So.)
LOG	68	Keith Williams (6-5, 320, Sr.)
	58	Mike Caputo (6-1, 275, So.)
C	67	Jacob Hickman (6-4, 290, Sr.)
	59	Brian Thorson (6-3, 280, Fr.)
ROG	73	D.J. Jones (6-5, 305, Jr.)
	79	Brandon Thompson (6-6, 295, Fr.)
ROT	72	Jaivorio Burkes (6-5, 325, Jr.)
	74	Ricky Henry (6-4, 305, Jr.)
TE	44	Mike McNeill (6-4, 240, Jr.)
	25	Kyler Reed (6-3, 220, Fr.)
WR	18	Menelik Holt (6-4, 220, Sr.)
	1	Chris Brooks (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	24	Niles Paul (6-1, 210, Jr.)
	8	Will Henry (6-5, 220, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	99	Barry Turner (6-3, 265, Sr.)
	92	Tyrone Fahie (6-3, 255, Jr.)
LDT	93	Ndamukong Suh (6-4, 300, Sr.)
	55	Baker Steinkuhler (6-6, 290, Fr.)
RDT	94	Jared Crick (6-6, 280, So.)
	90	Terrence Moore (6-3, 275, So.)
RDE	95	Pierre Allen (6-5, 265, Jr.)
	47	William Yancy (6-4, 245, So.)
SLB	36	Mathew May (6-1, 195, So.)
	9	Austin Stafford (6-2, 205, So.)
MLB	54	Colton Koehler (6-1, 230, Sr.)
	51	Will Compton (6-2, 230, Fr.)
WLB	52	Phillip Dillard (6-1, 240, Sr.)
	7	Latravis Washington (6-3, 225, Jr.)
LCB	5	Anthony West (6-0, 200, Jr.)
	15	Alfonzo Dennard (5-10, 190, So.)
RCB	21	Prince Amukamara (6-1, 195, Jr.)
	14	Anthony Blue (5-10, 180, So.)
FS	3	Rickey Thenarse (6-0, 195, Sr.)
	33	Matt O'Hanlon (5-11, 195, Sr.)
SS	4	Larry Asante (6-1, 210, Sr.)
	2	Major Culbert (6-0, 205, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	90	Alex Henery (6-2, 175, Jr.)
P	90	Alex Henery (6-2, 175, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	NEBRASKA	OPP
SCORING	460	371
Points Per Game	35.4	28.5
FIRST DOWNS	295	228
Rushing	113	83
Passing	171	117
Penalty	11	28
RUSHING YARDAGE	2207	1514
Yards gained rushing	2509	1895
Yards lost rushing	302	381
Rushing Attempts	486	418
Average Per Rush	4.5	3.6
Average Per Game	169.8	116.5
TDs Rushing	27	24
PASSING YARDAGE	3653	3034
Att-Comp-Int	433-295-11	385-222-12
Average Per Pass	8.4	7.9
Average Per Catch	12.4	13.7
Average Per Game	281.0	233.4
TDs Passing	27	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	5860	4548
Total Plays	919	803
Average Per Play	6.4	5.7
Average Per Game	450.8	349.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	57-1245	57-1364
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	31-376	22-208
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	12-202	11-249

TEAM STATISTICS	NEBRASKA	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.8	23.9
PUNT RETURN AVG.	12.1	9.5
INT RETURN AVG.	16.8	22.6
FUMBLES-LOST	31-17	17-5
PENALTIES-YARDS	94-800	64-477
Average Per Game	61.5	36.7
PUNTS-YARDS	48-1850	66-2544
Average Per Punt	38.5	38.5
Net punt average	32.1	31.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	34:01	25:59
3RD-DOWN CONV.	84/178	57/169
3rd-Down Pct.	47%	34%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/13	10/21
4th-Down Pct.	38%	48%
SACKS BY-YARDS	35-269	21-128
MISC YARDS	9	0
TDS SCORED	58	49
FG-ATTEMPTS	18-21	10-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	56-57	45-49
ATTENDANCE	680564	235899
Games/Avg Per Game	8/85070	4/58975
Neutral Site Games		1/67282

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Nebraska	98	126	81	55	0	460
Opponent	113	107	93	52	6	371

says. "He's 21 years old, and he's not even close to his potential yet."

A pair of sophomores, Jared Crick and Terrence Moore, figure to battle for the other tackle spot with Baker Steinkuhler.

The Huskers should be good up front with the return of starting end Pierre Allen and a healthy Barry Turner, who missed all but two games with a broken leg last season. A Freshman All-American in 2005, Turner has 11.5 career sacks.

There's not much experience at linebacker, but Blake Lawrence, Colton Koehler and Mathew May played significant roles over the season's final stretch when Nebraska won six of seven games. Phillip Dillard is the only returning starter, and he was limited to nine contests last season because of injury.

Eight players with at least one career start return in the secondary. The most experienced is senior strong safety Larry Asante, who has started 22 straight games. At free safety, Matt O'Hanlon came on strong last year, as did Rickey Thenarse. Corner Anthony West, who collected two interceptions in '08, is back, along with Prince Amukamara, who was the top reserve in the nickel and dime packages.

Questions abound on offense, starting at quarterback. Record-setting Joe Ganz has moved on and junior Zac Lee, who brings a similar skill set, steps in.

Lee has been a little-used reserve and a scout-team quarterback in the past. Now he has the keys to the offense and is ready to take a spin.

"We have a great offense," Lee says. "Just use it and everything will work out."

There is offensive talent around him. The left side of the line returns intact with tackle Mike Smith and guard Keith Williams. Center Jacob Hickman is also back. On the right side, guard D.J. Jones and tackle Jaivorio Burkes are ready to step up.

By the end of last season, Roy Helu Jr. and Quintin Castille were the team's I-backs. Helu led the Huskers with 803 yards and his 6.4 yard-per-carry average was the best by a Nebraska back in seven years. Castille went for a season-high 125 yards against Clemson.

Expectations are high for Nebraska, but it may take a while for the offense to find its legs. Suh and the defense will have the carry the load, at least early on.

RECRUITING REPORT

Nebraska's class does not lack for accolades or production. It is a proven group on the high school level that has a chance to make a big impact in college as well.

Leading the way is dual-threat **Cody Green,** a big, physically gifted quarterback with great athleticism. After missing most of his junior season because of injury, he rushed for more than 1,500 yards and threw for more than 3,000 as a senior.

Rex Burkhead rushed for more than 1,700 yards while also picking up close to 600 receiving and made a big impact on special teams. His athleticism and versatility could help Nebraska in a lot of capacities.

Linebacker **Chris Williams** had similar production on defense and will be joined by a monster defensive end in **Jason Ankrah** out of Maryland.

–Barton Simmons, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *MATHEW MAY, LB*

The sophomore impressed in the spring and has become a strong candidate to start at strongside linebacker. He's a walk-on from Imperial, Neb., the kind of story Husker fans love.

3 MISSOURI TIGERS

It may be unfair to throw this on Missouri, but what the heck. It's time to determine whether the Tigers have a legitimate college football program or just enjoyed a nice run.

And what a run it's been. Starting with quarterback Brad Smith and continuing with his successor, Chase Daniel, the past six seasons produced five bowl games, three consensus All-America selections and two straight Big 12 North championships.

Home attendance has soared and interest in the team is as great as any time since the glory days of the 1960s.

But the great programs reload. They replace stars with stars, and the Tigers have lost plenty of star power in guys like Daniel, wide receiver Jeremy Maclin and tight end Chase Coffman.

Coach Gary Pinkel likes this team, as does top returning linebacker Sean Weatherspoon. But they know it must go its own way.

"We lost 22 seniors," Weatherspoon says. "We have two new coordinators. It's just a different team. We have to make our own identity. As we keep going, we'll figure it out."

All indications show the Tigers will be led by their defense—a departure from a program that averaged 42.2 points per game in 2008. Daniel's completion percentage (72.9) was the third best in NCAA history.

Defense dominated the spring game. Although only four starters return, Weatherspoon is a solid foundation. In retrospect, his junior campaign seems even more amazing than it did at the end of the season.

Weatherspoon's 155 tackles are 50 more than the next Missouri player. He led the Tigers in tackles for loss and tied for the team lead in interceptions, earning an All-Big 12 spot in the process.

Even though the Tigers are replacing three starters both on the line and secondary, there doesn't seem to be much concern about a drop-off at either.

Middle linebacker Luke Lambert joins Weatherspoon as a starter, and the leader at the strongside position is junior Andrew Gachkar, a hard hitter on special teams throughout his career.

Junior Carl Gettis returns at cornerback, and Missouri needs a repeat of his strong freshman season. Kevin Rutland had an excellent spring and looks to have won the other corner spot.

On offense, all eyes are on quarterback. The job belongs to Blaine Gabbert, who backed up Daniel last season and appeared in five games. At 6-5, Gabbert is at least five inches taller than Daniel and has a stronger arm. But Daniel's leadership and knowledge of the game is what made him a Heisman finalist as a junior.

Gabbert had a rough spring game but was solid in other spring scrimmages.

Look for running back Derrick Washington to post another big season. He rushed for 1,036 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2008, and that was in a passing offense. The Tigers figure to be more balanced this time.

THE NEXT BIG THING

JACQUIES SMITH, DE

Smith is 6-4 and 240 pounds but is part of a group of defensive linemen that have impressive team speed.

SEAN WEATHERSPOON ▷ LB

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 10-4
Big 12: 5-3
(beat Northwestern in the Alamo Bowl, 30-23)

Coach: Gary Pinkel
9th year (59-40)
Career record: 132-77-1
Offensive coordinator:
David Yost (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Dave Steckel (1st year)

Stadium: Memorial Stadium/Faurot Field (68,349)
Tickets: 800-CAT-PAWS
Site: Columbia
Official athletic Web site:
www.mutigers.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	**@ILLINOIS***	**52-42**
Victories in the opening game have set the tone for successful Missouri seasons. The Tigers are 4-0 in the neutral-site opener during the Gary Pinkel regime.		
S.12	Bowling Green	
S.19	Furman	
S.25	@NEVADA	69-17
O.8	Nebraska	52-17
O.17	@OKLAHOMA STATE	23-28
O.24	Texas	31-56
O.31	@COLORADO	58-0
N.7	Baylor	31-28
N.14	@KANSAS STATE	41-24
N.21	Iowa State	52-20
N.28	@KANSAS**	37-40

** at St. Louis, MO*
*** at Kansas City, MO*

BOWL PROJECTION
» INSIGHT BOWL
MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Offensive line is a great place not to have many questions.
- Linebacker Sean Weatherspoon plays all over the field.
- An unproven quarterback tempers expectations.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	11	Blaine Gabbert (6-5, 235, So.)
RB	24	Derrick Washington (5-11, 225, Jr.)
LOT	72	Elvis Fisher (6-5, 300, So.)
LOG	66	Austin Wuebbels (6-4, 300, So.)
C	62	Tim Barnes (6-4, 305, Jr.)
ROG	78	Kurtis Gregory (6-5, 305, Sr.)
ROT	77	Dan Hoch (6-7, 315, So.)
TE	87	Andrew Jones (6-5, 245, So.)
WR	16	Brandon Gerau (6-0, 175, So.)
WR	29	Jerrell Jackson (6-1, 190, So.)
WR	8	Wes Kemp (6-4, 225, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	3	Jacquies Smith (6-4, 240, So.)
LDT	93	Terrell Resonno (6-6, 295, So.)
RDT	96	Jaron Baston (6-1, 305, Sr.)
RDE	85	Aldon Smith (6-5, 245, Fr.)
SLB	6	Andrew Gachkar (6-3, 230, Jr.)
MLB	33	Luke Lambert (6-3, 235, Jr.)
WLB	12	Sean Weatherspoon (6-2, 245, Sr.)
LCB	20	Kevin Rutland (6-0, 195, Jr.)
RCB	19	Carl Gettis (5-11, 200, Jr.)
FS	13	Kenji Jackson (5-10, 195, So.)
SS	4	Hardy Ricks (6-0, 200, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	91	Tanner Mills (6-2, 200, Sr.)
P	36	Jake Harry (6-1, 195, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
Sheldon Richardson
DT, 6-4, 292
Despite his size, Richardson is a great athlete who has been timed in the 4.7-second range in the 40-yard dash.

2
Joshua Tatum
LB, 6-0, 240
Tatum will provide an immediate physical presence in the linebacking corps.

3
Kendial Lawrence
RB, 5-9, 177
With more than 2,600 rushing yards and 43 touchdowns to his credit as a senior, Lawrence is a proven producer.

4
Brayden Burnett
DE, 6-3, 240
There are players who look more imposing, but few make as many plays as Burnett.

5
T.J. Moe
ATH, 6-0, 185
Moe is a unique prospect; he played quarterback in high school but has the ability to play just about anywhere on the field.

G. NEWMAN LOWRANCE / GETTY IMAGES

COLORADO BUFFALOES 4

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Colorado State	38-17
S.11	@TOLEDO	
S.19	Wyoming	
0.1	@WEST VIRGINIA	17-14 (OT)
0.10	@TEXAS	14-38
0.17	Kansas	14-30
0.24	@KANSAS STATE	14-13
0.31	Missouri	0-58
N.7	Texas A&M	17-24
N.14	@IOWA STATE	28-24
N.19	@OKLAHOMA STATE	17-30
N.27	Nebraska	31-40

GAME TO WATCH

The Jayhawks have won three straight in this series, and this should be the first opportunity to prove the Buffaloes can contend for the division.

BOWL PROJECTION
» TEXAS BOWL

LOWER TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Better play from the quarterback spot is needed.
» Defensive line needs to come together.
» Defense's strength should be in the back seven and speed positions.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	7	Cody Hawkins (5-11, 190, Jr.)
FB	41	Jake Behrens (6-0, 230, Sr.)
RB	2	Darrell Scott (6-1, 200, So.)
LOT	78	Nate Solder (6-9, 295, Jr.)
LOG	66	Blake Behrens (6-3, 290, So.)
C	56	Keenan Stevens (6-2, 295, Jr.)
ROG	73	Ryan Miller (6-8, 310, So.)
ROT	71	Matthew Bahr (6-4, 275, So.)
TE	87	Riar Geer (6-4, 250, Sr.)
WR	1	Josh Smith (6-0, 190, Jr.)
WR	21	Scotty McKnight (5-11, 180, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	93	Conrad Obi (6-3, 265, So.)
LDT	50	Curtis Cunningham (6-1, 270, So.)
RDT	97	Taj Kaynor (6-5, 265, Sr.)
RDE	90	Marquez Herrod (6-2, 265, Jr.)
SLB	45	Jeff Smart (6-0, 220, Sr.)
MLB	54	Marcus Burton (6-0, 260, Jr.)
WLB	47	Shaun Mohler (6-3, 220, Sr.)
LCB	3	Jimmy Smith (6-2, 195, Jr.)
RCB	29	Cha'pelle Brown (5-7, 180, Sr.)
FS	46	Anthony Perkins (5-10, 195, So.)
SS	12	Patrick Mahnke (6-1, 200, So.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	13	Aric Goodman (5-10, 185, Jr.)
P	14	Matt DiLallo (6-1, 195, Sr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
Big 12: 2-6

Coach: Dan Hawkins
4th year (13-24)
Career record: 66-35 (FBS)
Offensive coordinator:
Mark Helfrich (4th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Ron Collins (4th year)

Stadium: Folsom Field (53,750)
Tickets: 800-87-BUFFS
Site: Boulder
Official athletic Web site:
www.cubuffs.com

CODY HAWKINS » QB

FRED BARNES FOR SN

5-YEAR WINS TREND

'04	7
'05	7
'06	2
'07	6
'08	5

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Nick Kasa
DE, 6-7, 245
Kasa is the jewel of the Buffs' class. With his speed and length off the edge, he is one of the top signees in the Big 12.

2 — Jack Harris
OT, 6-6, 270
With long arms and a big frame, Harris will grow into a dominating tackle with the right physical development.

3 — Edward Nuckols
DT, 6-2, 290
Though he will be a defensive tackle in college, Nuckols showed off his athleticism in high school by rushing for 19 touchdowns.

4 — Andre Simmons
WR, 6-3, 201
One of the top junior-college wideouts in the nation, Simmons will be a big target as a possession receiver.

5 — Nate Bonsu
DT, 6-2, 265
A product of one of the top high school programs in Texas, Bonsu chose Colorado over a slew of national offers.

After beating West Virginia in the third game of 2008, the possibilities seemed endless for Colorado.

But there would be only two more triumphs in a disappointing 5-7 year, which prompted a bold statement from coach Dan Hawkins at the team's senior awards banquet in December: "Ten wins and no excuses."

At Boise State, where Hawkins went 53-11 in five seasons, that was no problem. At Colorado, where he's 13-24 in three years with only one bowl appearance, it has been tougher.

The 2008 campaign was difficult because of injuries. The Buffaloes finished the year without their leading rusher, two starters in the secondary and with a rebuilt offensive line.

Colorado suffered 11 season-ending injuries, with nine of them requiring surgery.

Hawkins has even gone as far as to change the role of his son, Cody, who has started at quarterback over the past two seasons. Dad threw open the QB job after Hawkins didn't show improvement. Cody and Tyler Hansen are now battling for the position.

Completion percentage has been a sticking point for Hawkins. He's at 56.7 percent for his career in a conference where 60 percent is the norm.

Hansen stepped in for Hawkins last season against Kansas State and led Colorado to a victory. He's a better athlete and more of a running threat, and there's a possibility Hansen and Hawkins will rotate in 2009.

Colorado also needs to get more from its running backs. A year earlier, the Buffaloes pulled off a recruiting coup by beating Texas for Darrell Scott. But Scott stayed home all summer to complete coursework and gain eligibility and his lack of conditioning led to a series of early injuries. He finished with 343 yards and one of the team's 10 rushing touchdowns.

Another freshman, Rodney Stewart, became the breakout player. He finished as Colorado's leading rusher with 622 yards but broke his leg at Texas A&M and missed the final three games.

Scotty McKnight is a top-notch wide receiver who missed some of spring ball with partially torn triceps.

Josh Smith, whose 1,987 all-purpose yards last year were the second most in school history, is the only other established wideout. He and McKnight will have to show the way for an inexperienced group.

The Buffaloes will play a 3-4 scheme at times on defense to take advantage of their strength in the back seven. At linebacker, Jeff Smart, the team's top tackler last year, returns, along with Shaun Mohler. Marcus Burton becomes the middle linebacker.

Up front, Marquez Herrod becomes the starting defensive end, but he's unproven. Tackle Curtis Cunningham is the only lineman who was on the field for at least 100 snaps last season.

Is there enough here for 10 victories? Some of it would be luck. But we know this: There won't be any excuses.

THE NEXT BIG THING

NICK KASA, DE

Recent recruiting emphasis at Colorado was placed on defensive linemen, and the most highly regarded prospect is the 6-7 Kasa.

5 KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

How about this for a plot? Retired legendary coach enters a time machine in 2005 and emerges after the 2008 season, returning to the same desk he occupied for 17 seasons.

Call it "The Bill Snyder Story." And Kansas State is hoping for an action-adventure with a happy ending.

A rough beginning seems more likely.

Snyder returns to breathe new life into the program he built upon his first arrival in 1989. He worked wonders back then, turning a moribund program into a champion. Ten years into his tenure, the Wildcats were an overtime loss away from playing in their first national championship game.

A new challenge awaits, and this one is just as daunting. The Wildcats regressed in three years under Ron Prince, who reached a bowl game in his first season, then saw Kansas State freefall in the next two seasons with no bowl appearances and just five conference victories.

Re-enter Snyder and another rebuilding task.

The first order of business is to find Josh Freeman's replacement at quarterback. Freeman was a three-year starter, and his longtime friend Carson Coffman figures to step in. Coffman, a junior, was an excellent high school quarterback who led his team to two state championships. And he has the football genes, although Carson didn't go the tight-end route like his father Paul (who spent 11 years in the NFL with the Packers and Chiefs) and brother Chase, an All-American at Missouri and third-round pick of Cincinnati in the 2009 draft.

Snyder describes his offense as "broad-based," but it will include the quarterback running. A pair of redshirt freshmen, Collin Klein and Joseph Cassanavoid, are also in the quarterback mix.

The primary target will be a small but dynamic wide receiver in Brandon Banks. He's 5-7, but came on strong in his first season out of junior college. Banks caught 67 passes, while his 15.7 yards per reception were second in the Big 12 last year. He also finished second in the league with 27.7 yards per kickoff return.

"You can do a number of things with someone that has that kind of quickness and speed," Snyder says.

One player looking for a second life in the new regime is running back Keithen Valentine. He had a big spring game after transferring from Mississippi Delta Community College, but finished the '08 season with just 129 yards. Logan Dold is a powerful back who had a solid freshman campaign (336 yards), although there is some speculation he could be moved to safety.

One of the team's biggest strengths last season was the play of defensive end Brandon Harold, who led the Wildcats with 10.5 tackles for loss just a year out of high school.

The linebackers are led by returning starters Ulla Pomele and Alex Hrebec, and John Houlik had an impressive spring. Cornerback-Joshua Moore, who led the Big 12 in pass breakups last season, is back as well.

THE NEXT BIG THING

CARLTON CALLENDAR, CB

Plenty of new faces will get chances, but look for this freshman from Miami to get an early shot at starting.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
Big 12: 2-6

Coach: Bill Snyder
1st year, but coached Kansas State from 1989-2005
Career record: 136-68-1
Offensive coordinator: Andy Ludwig (1st year)
Defensive coordinators: Vic Koenning (1st year)
Chris Cosh (1st year)

Stadium: Bill Snyder Family Stadium (50,000)
Tickets: 800-221-CATS
Site: Manhattan, Kansas
Official athletic Web site: www.kstatesports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Massachusetts	
S.12	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	45-37
S.26	Tennessee Tech	
0.3	@IOWA STATE*	38-30
0.10	@TEXAS TECH	28-58
0.17	Texas A&M	44-30
0.24	Colorado	13-14
0.31	@OKLAHOMA	35-58
N.7	Kansas	21-52
N.14	Missouri	24-41
N.21	@NEBRASKA	28-56

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 @UCLA

A high-profile game for the Wildcats will let them know where they stand before heading into Big 12 play two weeks later.

** at Kansas City, MO*

PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Starting over in many ways.
- Brandon Harold is a keeper at defensive end.
- This team will be better organized than previous Wildcat squads.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	14	Carson Coffman (6-3, 208, Jr.)
RB	25	Keithen Valentine (5-8, 193, Sr.)
LOT	64	Nick Stringer (6-6, 271, Sr.)
LOG	76	Brock Unruh (6-6, 288, Sr.)
C	59	Zach Kendall (6-3, 287, Jr.)
ROG	74	Wade Weibert (6-4, 287, Jr.)
ROT	67	Kenneth Mayfield (6-4, 311, Jr.)
TE	85	Jeron Mastrud (6-6, 253, Sr.)
WR	83	Brandon Banks (5-7, 142, Sr.)
WR	89	Aubrey Quarles (5-11, 195, Sr.)
WR	81	Attrail Snipes (6-1, 180, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	99	Brandon Harold (6-6, 264, So.)
NT	77	Daniel Calvin (6-3, 310, Sr.)
RDE	90	Eric Childs (6-3, 238, Sr.)
LOLB	40	Antonio Felder (6-2, 253, Jr.)
LILB	47	Alex Hrebec (5-11, 238, So.)
RILB	51	Ulla Pomele (6-1, 228, Sr.)
ROLB	50	Hansen Sekona (6-0, 230, Sr.)
LCB	4	Joshua Moore (5-11, 184, Jr.)
RCB	6	Blair Irvin (6-0, 180, Sr.)
FS	2	Tysyn Hartman (6-3, 204, So.)
SS	20	Courtney Herndon (6-0, 211, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	19	Josh Cherry (6-1, 183, Jr.)
P	4	DJ Fulhage (5-9, 180, Jr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — **Timothy Flanders** *ATH, 5-9, 191* — Flanders was a late steal from Tulsa and Oklahoma State, and he gives the Wildcats an immediate home-run threat.

2 — **Joseph Bonugli** *S, 5-11, 187* — Bonugli is a hard-hitting safety with great instincts. He was a tackling machine in high school.

3 — **Tramaine Thompson** *RB, 5-8, 160* — A one-time Oregon State commitment, Thompson will be a slot receiver and return man for Kansas State.

4 — **Torell Miller** *S, 6-3, 187* — One of the real sleeper signees in the Big 12, Miller has cornerback cover skills despite his size.

5 — **Thomas Ferguson** *DB, 6-1, 205* — Another defensive back with great size, Ferguson can play either cornerback or safety.

PETER AIKEN / GETTY IMAGES

IOWA STATE CYCLONES 6

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.3	North Dakota State	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.12	Iowa	5-17

This is one of the best off-the-radar rivalries going, and the Cyclones tend to find a way to win these contests at home.

S.19	@KENT STATE	48-28
S.26	Army	
O.3	Kansas State*	30-38
O.10	@KANSAS	33-35
O.17	Baylor	10-38
O.24	@NEBRASKA	7-35
O.31	@TEXAS A&M	35-49
N.7	Oklahoma State	17-59
N.14	Colorado	24-28
N.21	@MISSOURI	20-52

** at Kansas City, MO*

PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Not just a new coaching staff, but also a new offense will make the transition difficult.
- Defense has some nice pieces and will be improved.
- More victories than 2008 (2) would be a great sign.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	4	Austen Arnaud (6-3, 222, Jr.)
RB	33	Alexander Robinson (5-10, 182, Jr.)
LOT	58	Hayworth Hicks (6-3, 330, Jr.)
LOG	73	Reggie Stephens (6-4, 313, Sr.)
C	77	Alex Alvarez (6-2, 291, Jr.)
ROG	63	Ben Lamaak (6-5, 315, Jr.)
ROT	51	Scott Haughton (6-4, 335, So.)
TE	88	Collin Franklin (6-6, 247, Jr.)
WR	82	Marquis Hamilton (6-4, 220, Sr.)
WR	2	Sedrick Johnson (6-4, 188, So.)
WR	80	Darius Darks (6-0, 167, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	29	Rashawn Parker (6-0, 246, Sr.)
LDT	97	Stephen Ruempolhamer (6-3, 285, So.)
RDT	62	Nate Frere (6-1, 291, Sr.)
RDE	55	Christopher Lyle (6-3, 249, Sr.)
SLB	16	Josh Raven (5-11, 216, Sr.)
MLB	54	Jesse Smith (6-0, 231, Sr.)
WLB	43	Fred Garrin (6-1, 221, Sr.)
LCB	23	Leonard Johnson (5-10, 179, So.)
RCB	32	Ter'ran Benton (6-0, 185, So.)
FS	2	James Smith (5-9, 189, Sr.)
SS	87	Alex Sandvig (6-1, 179, So.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	21	Grant Mahoney (6-1, 151, So.)
P	13	Mike Brandtner (6-1, 206, Sr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 2-10
Big 12: 0-8

Coach: Paul Rhoads
1st year
Offensive coordinator:
Tom Herman (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Wally Burnham (1st year)

Stadium: Jack Trice Stadium (55,000)
Tickets: 515-294-1816
Site: Ames
Official athletic Web site:
www.cyclones.com

LEONARD JOHNSON » CB

5-YEAR WINS TREND

'04	7
'05	7
'06	4
'07	3
'08	2

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

It may have been the most unusual coaching departure in recent memory.

After going winless in Big 12 play and finishing 2-10 in his second season, Gene Chizik was starting to hear it from the Iowa State fan base. Could he get it done in Ames?

But after the 2008 campaign, the Cyclone faithful got their answer. Chizik, 5-19 in two seasons, wouldn't be around to try. Auburn called, he bolted and Iowa State was left to start over.

Enter Paul Rhoads.

"We will be passionate," Rhoads says. "We will bring pride back to the Cyclone nation."

It was something of a coaching trade, with Rhoads at Auburn in 2008 after spending the previous eight years as the University of Pittsburgh's defensive coordinator.

But it was Rhoads' experience before Pittsburgh that made him an attractive candidate. He spent five years on Iowa State's staff under ex-head coach Dan McCarney.

Defense is Rhoads' specialty, which is good for the Cyclones. Iowa State surrendered averages of 452.8 yards and 35.8 points per game last year. The pass defense was loose, with opponents completing 67.4 percent of their passes and throwing for nearly three touchdowns per game.

As much attention as the defense needs, the buzz around Iowa State is the new spread offense. "If you can't beat them, join them," seems to be the idea here with the no-huddle shotgun formation under coordinator Tom Herman.

The advantage for Iowa State is an experienced quarterback who seems comfortable in the system. Austen Arnaud completed 247 passes for 2,792 yards and 15 touchdowns last season, his first as a starter.

Iowa State also appears to have the receiving corps to make the new attack work. Second-year wideouts Sedrick Johnson, Lonzie Range and Darius Darks had good spring games, while seniors Marquis Hamilton and Houston Jones combined for 58 catches in '08.

Leading rusher Alexander Robinson is back, and Florida transfer Bo Williams will also be in the mix.

The biggest adjustment to the spread will come on the offensive line. But the Cyclones have plenty of experience here, with some players forced onto the field earlier because of injuries.

Iowa State's defensive players may help their counterparts when it comes to the spread, as they see it often in the Big 12.

End Rashawn Parker and nose tackle Nate Frere are back for their senior seasons, while Jesse Smith and Fred Garrin, the team's respective second- and third-leading tacklers last year, return at linebacker.

The secondary could be a strength. Free safety James Smith, who topped the team in tackles in 2008, is among seven players with starting experience.

A turnaround won't happen overnight, but at least the Cyclones have a coach who knows the territory.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Darius Reynolds
ATH, 6-3, 190
Though he played quarterback in junior college, Reynolds could line up at a number of positions for the Cyclones.

2 — Joshua Bellamy
WR, 6-1, 200
A speedy and gifted wide receiver, Bellamy signed with the Cyclones out of junior college.

3 — Aaron Moore
C, 6-5, 255
One of the top centers in the country, Moore has the athleticism of a tight end.

4 — Princeton Jackson
LB, 6-1, 210
Jackson, also a star baseball player, is a hard hitter with a great nose for the ball.

5 — Donnie Jennert
WR, 6-6, 192
At 6-6 and with soft hands, there are few wide receivers who present the mismatch of Jennert.

THE NEXT BIG THING

LEONARD JOHNSON, CB

Johnson set an NCAA record for kickoff-return yards in a game (319) against Oklahoma State last year, and opened eyes with his hard-hitting play at cornerback this spring.

BIG 12 SOUTH PRESEASON RANK

1 TEXAS LONGHORNS

TOP 25 PICK

JORDAN SHIPLEY ▸ WR

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Louisiana-Monroe	
S.12	@WYOMING	
S.19	Texas Tech	33-39
S.26	UTEP	42-13
0.10	Colorado	38-14
GAME TO WATCH		
0.17	Oklahoma*	45-35
When is this not the biggest game? Texas has won three of the last four matchups but has only one Big 12 title game appearance in that span.		
0.24	@MISSOURI	56-31
0.31	@OKLAHOMA STATE	28-24
N.7	UCF	
N.14	@BAYLOR	45-21
N.21	Kansas	35-7
N.26	@TEXAS A&M	49-9

** at Dallas, TX*

BOWL PROJECTION BCS BOWL

» BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- McCoy should be a Heisman finalist if not the winner.
- Will the O-line and backs come through?
- The pass defense will be much improved.

The story of Texas' spring game? Quarterback Colt McCoy completed only 11 passes in 24 tries.

Stop the press. These bricks came from the most accurate passer for a season in NCAA history (76.7 perecent).

He's the guy who pulled a dramatic victory over Ohio State from sure defeat in the Fiesta Bowl by marching the Longhorns 76 yards, as he completed seven of 10 passes, including the 26-yard touchdown pass with 16 seconds remaining.

He didn't win the Heisman but did capture the Walter Camp Award and was a first-team All-America on the Football Writers Association of America ballot, despite playing in the same division as Heisman winner Sam Bradford of Oklahoma. Oh, and his Longhorns defeated Bradford and the Sooners in 2008.

So, yeah, it's a story when McCoy goes 11-for-24.

But know that it was spring weather in Texas. The wind was blowing around 20 miles per hour. And Texas wide receivers dropped four balls.

"*That* was the cause for concern," Longhorns coach Mack Brown says.

Not McCoy, who goes into this season as a solid Heisman candidate. Yes, the previous two Heisman winners return. But McCoy has been as effective as Bradford and Tim Tebow, and didn't have a running game to work with.

The Texas offense will be solid again, but the defense is another story. Mother Nature wasn't the only reason McCoy had a tough spring game. The best player on the field that afternoon was safety Earl Thomas, who returned an interception for a touchdown.

That was a big sign. Texas wasn't a good turnover team in 2008. It finished last in the Big 12 and 113th nationally with just six interceptions.

"Turnovers are something we've needed and talked about," Brown says. "We dropped enough interceptions last year and it was a true emphasis in the spring."

There's talent in the secondary with Blake Gideon and Thomas at safeties and Aaron Williams and Chykie Brown at the corners. Now, they have to become the good hands people.

The Longhorns lost three starting defensive linemen (including All-America end Brian Orakpo) and two linebackers, but Texas won't drop off.

End Sergio Kindle figures to become the program's next defensive impact player. He's a speed rusher who had 10 sacks last season, and defensive coordinator Will Muschamp says Kindle will line up where the senior wants.

JED JACOBSOHN / GETTY IMAGES

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Colt McCoy	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	136	561	4.1	11	43.2	296.8

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Colt McCoy	13	136	561	4.1	11	43.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jordan Shipley	13	89	1060	11.9	11	81.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Roddrick Muckelroy	13	71	41	112

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Sergio Kindle	13	10	71

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Earl Thomas	2	0	.0	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 12-1
BIG 12: 7-1
(beat Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl, 24-21)

Coach: Mack Brown
12th year (115-26)
Career record: 201-100-1
Offensive coordinator:
Greg Davis (12th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Will Muschamp (2nd year)

Stadium: Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium (94,113)
Tickets: 800-982-BEVO
Site: Austin
Official athletic Web site:
www.texassports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Colt McCoy (6-3, 210, Sr.)
	7	John Chiles (6-2, 215, Jr.)
FB	24	Antwan Cobb (6-0, 215, Jr.)
	46	Aaron Smith (6-2, 220, So.)
RB	31	Cody Johnson (5-11, 255, So.)
	2	Vondrell McGee (5-10, 205, Jr.)
LOT	74	Adam Ulatoski (6-8, 302, Sr.)
	56	Tray Allen (6-5, 310, Jr.)
LOG	52	Charlie Tanner (6-4, 305, Sr.)
	75	Steve Moore (6-5, 300, Jr.)
C	71	Chris Hall (6-4, 300, Sr.)
	78	David Snow (6-4, 300, So.)
ROG	63	Michael Huey (6-5, 315, Jr.)
	54	Mark Buchanan (6-6, 295, Fr.)
ROT	64	Kyle Hix (6-7, 320, Jr.)
	72	Britt Mitchell (6-5, 300, Jr.)
TE	19	Blaine Irby (6-3, 235, Jr.)
	13	Ahmard Howard (6-4, 248, So.)
WR	8	Jordan Shipley (6-0, 190, Sr.)
	5	Brandon Collins (6-0, 170, Jr.)
WR	9	Malcolm Williams (6-3, 218, So.)
	11	James Kirkendoll (5-11, 175, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	2	Sergio Kindle (6-4, 239, Sr.)
	43	Dravannti Johnson (6-2, 220, Fr.)
LDT	33	Lamarr Houston (6-2, 279, Sr.)
	92	Ben Alexander (6-0, 310, Sr.)
RDT	91	Kheeston Randall (6-5, 275, So.)
	94	Michael Wilcoxon (6-3, 285, So.)
RDE		Alex Okafor (6-4, 232, Fr.)
	81	Sam Acho (6-3, 258, Jr.)
SLB	1	Keenan Robinson (6-3, 225, So.)
	13	Tariq Allen (6-2, 235, Fr.)
MLB	11	Jared Norton (6-3, 230, Sr.)
	42	Dustin Earnest (6-3, 233, Jr.)
WLB	38	Roddrick Muckelroy (6-2, 235, Sr.)
	18	Emmanuel Acho (6-2, 220, So.)
LCB	4	Aaron Williams (6-1, 175, So.)
	7	Deon Beasley (5-10, 175, Sr.)
RCB	8	Chykie Brown (6-1, 185, Jr.)
	3	Curtis Brown (6-1, 182, Jr.)
FS	21	Blake Gideon (6-1, 197, So.)
	27	Nolan Brewster (6-2, 210, So.)
SS	12	Earl Thomas (5-10, 195, So.)
	6	Christian Scott (6-1, 205, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	15	Lawrence Hunter (6-0, 185, Sr.)
P	9	Justin Tucker (6-1, 175, So.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	TEXAS	OPP
SCORING	551	244
Points Per Game	42.4	18.8
FIRST DOWNS	352	239
Rushing	132	68
Passing	189	148
Penalty	31	23
RUSHING YARDAGE	2177	1086
Yards gained rushing	2498	1608
Yards lost rushing	321	522
Rushing Attempts	508	356
Average Per Rush	4.3	3.1
Average Per Game	167.5	83.5
TDs Rushing	33	8
PASSING YARDAGE	4008	3372
Att-Comp-Int	447-343-8	491-276-6
Average Per Pass	9.0	6.9
Average Per Catch	11.7	12.2
Average Per Game	308.3	259.4
TDs Passing	36	19
TOTAL OFFENSE	6185	4458
Total Plays	955	847
Average Per Play	6.5	5.3
Average Per Game	475.8	342.9
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	40-905	68-1575
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-106	11-74
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	6-105	8-138

TEAM STATISTICS	TEXAS	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.6	23.2
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.2	6.7
INT RETURN AVG.	17.5	17.2
FUMBLES-LOST	16-6	25-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	83-738	94-792
Average Per Game	56.8	60.9
PUNTS-YARDS	41-1798	61-2398
Average Per Punt	43.9	39.3
Net punt average	39.6	35.9
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:33	27:27
3RD-DOWN CONV.	95/173	64/183
3rd-Down Pct.	55%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	13/16	11/30
4th-Down Pct.	81%	37%
SACKS BY-YARDS	47-383	26-179
MISC YARDS	65	0
TDS SCORED	74	29
FG-ATTEMPTS	11-14	14-23
PAT-ATTEMPTS	72-72 100%	26-26 100%
ATTENDANCE	686324	215605
Games/Avg Per Game	7/98046	4/53901
Neutral Site Games		2/82114

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Texas	104	176	149	122	551
Opponent	31	81	56	76	244

But it won't be the middle. You can't get the quarterback from there, and Kindle made his sack declaration in the spring: "I really want to lead the nation," he says.

It will help to have heat from the other end, and that could be freshman Alex Okafor, a talented athlete like Kindle and Orakpo who needs experience.

Texas won't be deep on the defensive line but there's confidence in nose tackle Lamarr Houston and tackle Kheeston Randall. Also part of the tackle rotation will be Ben Alexander, who emerged in the spring. Linebackers Roddrick Muckelroy and Jared Norton also had solid springs, according to Brown.

On offense, Texas doesn't need McCoy as the team's leading rusher as he was in '08. McCoy's yards have to go to running backs, but to whom? Either Cody Johnson, Vondrell McGee, Foswhitt Whittaker or Chris Whaley has to step up.

There are also questions on the line and at tight end. Last season, Texas averaged 4.3 yards per carry, which was sixth in the Big 12. Tackle Adam Ulatoski is the best of a bunch that needs to improve this season.

The tight-end spot has been thinned by injuries. Projected starter Blaine Irby missed two-thirds of last season and spring ball with a severe knee injury.

But the passing game should be as good as ever. Brandon Collins, Malcolm Williams, Jordan Shipley and James Kirkendoll will all catch plenty of balls. Even quarterback-turned-receiver John Chiles may nab a few catches.

Shipley also is one of the nation's top kickoff-return specialists. Kickers Lawrence Hunter and Ryan Bailey are back, while punter Justin Tucker, who averaged 45.2 yards a kick, also returns.

This is a team with eyes on the national championship. At least four Longhorns—McCoy, Kindle, Houston and Muckelroy—passed up the NFL for one more crack at a Big 12 and national title.

And this year has the flavor of the 2005 national title season. That team was led by a savvy quarterback (Vince Young) coming off a springboard BCS bowl victory over a Big Ten team. After Texas' Fiesta Bowl title over Ohio State last year, McCoy hopes to follow suit.

Oklahoma will provide the biggest challenge in the Big 12. And Florida again looks dominant in the national picture. But McCoy says they have a roadmap for success.

"We definitely know what it takes to get there," McCoy says.

RECRUITING REPORT

After losing some of the top in-state players to Oklahoma in 2008, Texas reclaimed the state this season with 19 in-state players. Three of those were among the best in the nation at their position.

Quarterback **Garrett Gilbert** likely will back up Colt McCoy after putting up record-breaking numbers in high school. Defensive end **Alex Okafor** has the look of a future first-round draft pick.

Mason Walters has an ideal offensive tackle body with the versatility to play anywhere on the line.

Texas also added depth to the offensive line with **Thomas Ashcraft, Garrett Porter** and **Paden Kelley**, and the Longhorns signed two of the nation's best tight ends in **Barrett Matthews** and **Trey Graham**. On defense, the Longhorns landed tackle **Calvin Howell**, athlete **Chris Whaley** and corner **Marcus Davis**.

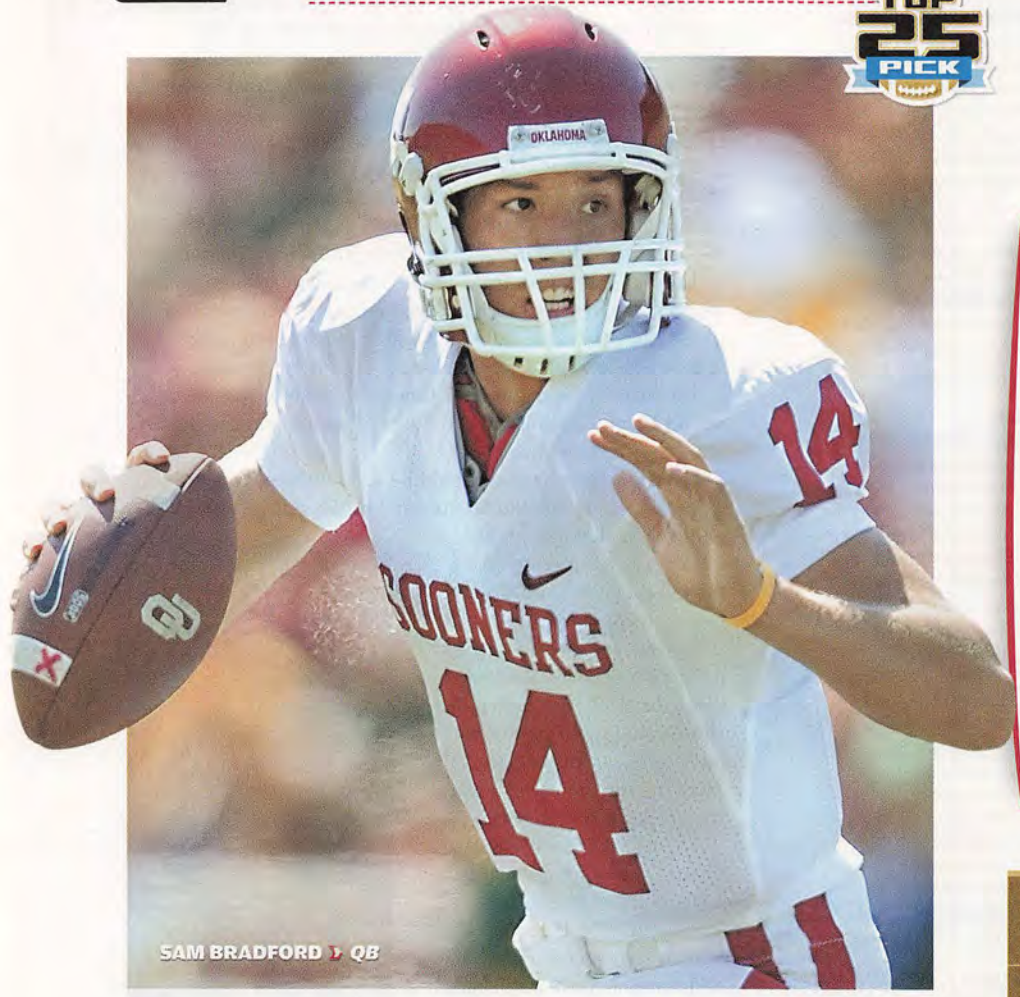
—Barton Simmons, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *ALEX OKAFOR, DE*

The freshman enrolled in time for spring drills and impressed the coaches. Teammates raved about his motor.

2 OKLAHOMA SOONERS

TOP 25 PICK



SAM BRADFORD › QB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Brigham Young*	
S.12	Idaho State	
S.19	Tulsa	
0.3	@MIAMI (FL)	
0.10	Baylor	49-17
GAME TO WATCH		
0.17	@TEXAS**	35-45
The Red River Rivalry is one of college football's great spectacles, and this one could be the best quarterback matchup of the season.		
0.24	@KANSAS	45-31
0.31	Kansas State	58-35
N.7	@NEBRASKA	62-28
N.14	Texas A&M	66-28
N.21	@TEXAS TECH	65-21
N.28	Oklahoma State	61-41

** at Arlington, TX*
*** at Dallas, TX*

BOWL PROJECTION
» FIESTA BOWL

BCS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE › A

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- The numbers may not be as prolific, but Sam Bradford will again shine.
- Success will come if the Sooners reload and don't rebuild on the offensive line.
- The defense won't surrender as many points this season.

Oklahoma offered no apologies after emerging from the controversial Big 12 division tiebreaker, and it shouldn't have.

The league agreed to the rule—the BCS standings are the final word when no other tiebreaker works—to give its division champion the best shot at reaching the national championship game.

The Sooners had lost to Texas earlier in the year during the Red River Rivalry showdown but jumped ahead of the Longhorns in the BCS poll later in the season after Texas fell at Texas Tech. The South Division tiebreaker and worthiness of the Oklahoma-Texas contest became the BCS controversy of 2008.

Oklahoma didn't help itself by losing to Florida by 10 in the BCS title game.

January may be haunting the program, but not December. Oklahoma has become the dominant force in the Big 12, winning six of the last 13 titles. No other program has more than two Big 12 crowns during that time.

To extend the streak, the Sooners have to rebuild the offensive line. That record-setting offense—716 total points, 99 touchdowns and 60-plus points in five straight games—was the product of talented players, including Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Sam Bradford. But it's what's up front that counts, and nobody was better on the line than the Sooners.

Duke Robinson, Phil Loadholt, Jon Cooper and Brandon Walker helped Oklahoma become the first team in the game's history to have a 4,000-yard passer and two 1,000-yard rushers in DeMarco Murray and Chris Brown.

That group is gone, but a good lineman returns in tackle Trent Williams, who will move to the left side in 2009.

Junior Cory Brandon is projected to start on the right side, with Stephen Good at right guard, Brian Simmons at left guard and Ben Habern at center.

The group remains a work-in-progress. Oklahoma's running backs gained only 52 yards on 27 attempts behind the line in the spring game, but it was operating without Murray and Brown.

While the numbers may not be 2008 vintage, the offense is starting over only on the line. Bradford's decision to return for his junior year surprised many, although not the ones closest to him.

"He wanted to come back for one more year all along," says Kent Bradford, Sam's father and a former Oklahoma lineman. Dad learned Sam likely would have been an early-to-mid selection in the first round. However, his son is enjoying college too much.

JAY DROWNS / SPORTING NEWS

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Sam Bradford

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
14	180.84	483-328-8	67.9	4720	50	337.1

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Chris Brown	14	217	1220	5.6	20	87.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jermaine Gresham	14	66	950	14.4	14	67.9

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Travis Lewis	14	70	74	144

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Jeremy Beal	14	8.5	70

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Dominique Franks	4	52	13.0	1
Travis Lewis	4	108	27.0	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 12-2
Big 12: 7-1
(lost to Florida in the BCS National Championship Game, 24-14)

Coach: Bob Stoops
11th year (109-24)
Career record: 109-24
Offensive coordinator:
Kevin Wilson (8th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Brent Venables (11th year)

Stadium: Gaylord Family-Oklahoma Memorial Stadium (82,112)
Tickets: 800-456-4668
Site: Norman
Official athletic Web site:
www.soonersports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	14	Sam Bradford (6-4, 218, Jr.)
	12	Landry Jones (6-4, 211, Fr.)
RB	29	Chris Brown (5-11, 210, Sr.)
	7	DeMarco Murray (6-1, 205, Jr.)
LOT	71	Trent Williams (6-5, 308, Sr.)
	59	Donald Stephenson (6-6, 275, So.)
LOG	74	Brian Simmons (6-5, 304, Sr.)
	78	Alex Williams (6-5, 300, So.)
C	60	Ben Habern (6-4, 275, Fr.)
	54	Jason Hannan (6-3, 283, So.)
ROG	77	Stephen Good (6-5, 305, So.)
	78	Alex Williams (6-5, 300, So.)
ROT	70	Cory Brandon (6-7, 308, Jr.)
	75	Jarvis Jones (6-7, 294, So.)
TE	18	Jermaine Gresham (6-6, 261, Sr.)
	83	Brody Eldridge (6-5, 265, Sr.)
WR	80	Adron Tennell (6-4, 191, Sr.)
	8	Brandon Caleb (6-2, 196, Jr.)
WR	17	Mossis Madu (6-0, 196, Jr.)
	24	Dejuan Miller (6-5, 200, So.)
WR	85	Ryan Broyles (5-11, 175, So.)
	4	Jameel Owens (6-3, 200, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	44	Jeremy Beal (6-3, 253, Jr.)
	91	RJ Washington (6-4, 242, Fr.)
LDT	93	Gerald McCoy (6-4, 295, Jr.)
	92	Stacy McGee (6-4, 260, Fr.)
RDT	86	Adrian Taylor (6-4, 295, Jr.)
	89	Cordero Moore (6-2, 295, Sr.)
RDE	33	Auston English (6-3, 253, Sr.)
	84	Frank Alexander (6-4, 229, So.)
SLB	22	Keenan Clayton (6-2, 220, Jr.)
	21	J.R. Bryant (6-3, 230, Sr.)
MLB	10	Mike Balogun (6-2, 250, Sr.)
	4	Ryan Reynolds (6-1, 234, Sr.)
WLB	28	Travis Lewis (6-2, 232, So.)
	48	Brandon Crow (6-0, 228, Jr.)
LCB	2	Brian Jackson (6-1, 202, Sr.)
	15	Lamar Harris (6-2, 180, Fr.)
RCB	1	Dominique Franks (6-0, 189, Jr.)
	3	Jonathan Nelson (5-11, 177, Jr.)
FS	25	Emmanuel Jones (5-11, 190, Sr.)
	27	Sam Proctor (6-0, 208, So.)
SS	20	Quinton Carter (6-2, 192, Jr.)
	6	Desmond Jackson (5-11, 198, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	17	Jimmy Stevens (5-6, 156, So.)
P	36	Tress Way (6-1, 190, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OKLAHOMA	OPP
SCORING	716	343
Points Per Game	51.1	24.5
FIRST DOWNS	386	272
Rushing	153	95
Passing	211	154
Penalty	22	23
RUSHING YARDAGE	2779	1627
Yards gained rushing	3009	2085
Yards lost rushing	230	458
Rushing Attempts	589	469
Average Per Rush	4.7	3.5
Average Per Game	198.5	116.2
TDs Rushing	45	19
PASSING YARDAGE	4891	3521
Att-Comp-Int	517-350-9	527-292-19
Average Per Pass	9.5	6.7
Average Per Catch	14.0	12.1
Average Per Game	349.4	251.5
TDs Passing	51	22
TOTAL OFFENSE	7670	5148
Total Plays	1106	996
Average Per Play	6.9	5.2
Average Per Game	547.9	367.7
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	52-1301	103-2456
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	32-272	10-50
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	19-271	9-(-5)

TEAM STATISTICS	OKLAHOMA	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	25.0	23.8
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.5	5.0
INT RETURN AVG.	14.3	-0.6
FUMBLES-LOST	13-2	35-15
PENALTIES-YARDS	102-905	93-674
Average Per Game	64.6	48.1
PUNTS-YARDS	54-1971	77-3212
Average Per Punt	36.5	41.7
Net punt average	33.7	37.1
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:26	30:34
3RD-DOWN CONV.	101/197	75/206
3rd-Down Pct.	51%	36%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/23	15/30
4th-Down Pct.	52%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	42-292	13-95
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	99	45
FG-ATTEMPTS	8-13	9-15
PAT-ATTEMPTS	94-99	40-41
ATTENDANCE	510448	286549
Games/Avg Per Game	6/85075	5/57310
Neutral Site Games		3/80551

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Oklahoma	225	238	153	100	716
Opponent	30	127	91	95	343

Bradford's great strength is his accuracy (he has a career completion percentage of 68.6).

For an encore this season, Bradford would like to win the final game, which takes place in Pasadena, Calif.

Brown (1,220 yards rushing) and Murray (1,002) may be why Bradford throws for less than 4,700 yards this season. Any program would like to have one of those guys.

The leading pass catchers are gone, but the Sooners are deep. Speedster Ryan Broyles moves to the outside, while running back Mossis Madu goes to the slot. Senior Adron Tennell gets his shot at becoming a starter.

But the leading receiver might wind up being tight end Jermaine Gresham (26 career TDs), while Brody Eldridge is one of the nation's best blocking tight ends.

With all of that scoring, how did the defense hold up? Not great. Oklahoma surrendered 343 points, the most in Stoops' 10 seasons.

The Sooners led the Big 12 in turnover margin and, despite the numbers, ranked at or near the top in most major defensive categories. Still, the numbers took their toll.

"It's about attitude and pride," defensive coordinator Brent Venables says. "Last year, that was one of our weak links."

Not so this time. The confident group begins up front, where ends Jeremy Beal, Frank Alexander and David King had an excellent spring. Auston English, an established sack machine, will rejoin the unit after missing spring practice with an injury.

Tackles Gerald McCoy and Adrian Taylor are also back.

Travis Lewis became a dominant linebacker on the weak side in his first season. He became the heart of the unit when middle 'backer Ryan Reynolds went down with a season-ending injury.

The position is rich with Reynolds and Mike Balogun in the middle, and strongside starter Keenan Clayton. The Sooners also liked the play of freshman linebackers Jaydan Bird, Ronnell Lewis and Tom Wort in the spring.

In the secondary, Dominique Franks and Brian Jackson are back at corner. Walk-on Emmanuel Jones may get a shot at safety. Desmond Jackson, who played corner and safety in the spring, could also see time.

Special teams hurt Oklahoma in its losses to Texas and Florida. While kicker Jimmy Stevens is solid, questions surround the coverage and punting units.

There is enough here for a run at the Big 12 title.

RECRUITING REPORT

There are a lot of strengths in this '09 class, particularly on defense. The defensive backs the Sooners signed include a physical safety in **Kevin Brent**, a versatile corner in **Gabe Lynn**, four-star corner **Demontre Hurst** and one of the top cover men in the country in **Marcus Trice**. Lynn may be asked to contribute early in his career.

At linebacker, Oklahoma has one of the best duos in the country in headhunter **Tom Wort** and **Ronnell Lewis**, a former eight-man football star who could possess the most upside in the class.

On the defensive line, tackle **Jamarkus McFarland** was one of the most heavily recruited players in the nation at any position. McFarland's motor and technique make him disruptive at the line.

Drew Allen has the intangibles to be the next great Sooner quarterback.

—Barton Simmons, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *TOM WORT, LB*

The freshman impressed in the spring, but this claim could also go to fellow rookie 'backers Ronnell Lewis or Jaydan Bird.

3 OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

KENDALL HUNTER › RB

Every day, things are getting closer for Oklahoma State. Progress has been steady for coach Mike Gundy, who made his coaching debut in 2005.

The Cowboys fell at home to Oklahoma in the season finale, then dropped a competitive Holiday Bowl to Oregon, ending the year one game short of a 10-victory season (9-4). After the game, Gundy knew the expectations would be higher for 2009.

If Oklahoma State maintains its offensive production, the program will be fine on that side of the ball. The Cowboys' chances for improvement will be based on defense.

Defensive coordinator Tim Beckman became Toledo's head coach, and Gundy hired Bill Young, who is familiar to Oklahoma State fans, as he played for the Cowboys and served two stints on the coaching staff.

Since 2002, Oklahoma State hasn't ranked better than 74th in total defense but there are some talented defenders this year. Linebacker Andre Sexton and cornerback Perrish Cox are all-conference-caliber players. But getting pressure on the quarterback is the top priority.

The improvement has to start up front from ends Ugo Chinasa, Jeremiah Price, Jamie Blatnick, Richetti Jones and Darius Hart and tackles Derek Burton, Swanson Miller and Shane Jarka. Last year, Oklahoma State recorded a conference-low 15 sacks.

And improving won't be easy. This year's schedule contains the top five and seven of the 16 top passing teams from 2008.

"When you face four or five of the best offenses in the country, you're not going to have the best stats, even when you're playing good football," Young says.

It just has to be better, and Gundy has all the faith in Young. When he got to Kansas in 2002, the Jayhawks were 112th in total defense. In 2008, Kansas had All-America cornerback Aqib Talib.

On offense, quarterback Zac Robinson, receiver Dez Bryant and running back Kendall Hunter make up a deadly trio.

In a conference with Sam Bradford and Colt McCoy, Robinson doesn't get his due. But he's one of the nation's top dual-threat quarterbacks and enters his senior season with career numbers of 6,233 passing and 1,553 rushing yards.

Bryant flourished last season as a consensus All-American who caught 87 passes with an average of 17 yards per catch. He led the Big 12 in receiving yards per game (113.9), scoring (9.69 points per game) and touchdown receptions (19).

It was no coincidence that Oklahoma State started falling behind Oregon in the bowl game when Bryant went out with a knee injury that required offseason surgery.

Hunter ran for 1,555 yards and was the Big 12's leading rusher by nearly 30 yards per game last year. He also scored 16 touchdowns.

The offensive line, led by tackle Russell Okung, should help keep things moving.

THE NEXT BIG THING

DONALD BOOKER, LB

Booker is a senior who transferred in from Navarro (Texas) College two years ago. He was named the most improved player during spring practice, and the Oklahoma State coaches like his speed.

TOP 25 PICK

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	**Georgia**	
Nothing like a tussle with an SEC power out of the box to see where you stand. This is a major credibility game for the Cowboys.		
S.12	Houston	56-37
S.19	Rice	
S.26	Grambling State	
O.10	@TEXAS A&M	56-28
O.17	Missouri	28-23
O.24	@BAYLOR	34-6
O.31	Texas	24-28
N.7	@IOWA STATE	59-17
N.14	Texas Tech	20-56
N.19	Colorado	30-17
N.28	@OKLAHOMA	41-61

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» COTTON BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Offense is amazing with weapons everywhere.
- Defense doesn't get the benefit of the doubt, but Bill Young is a great hire.
- Cowboys will miss punter Matt Fodge.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
Big 12: 5-3
(lost to Oregon in the Holiday Bowl, 42-31)

Coach: Mike Gundy
5th year (27-23)
Career Record: 27-23
Offensive coordinator:
Gunter Brewer (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Bill Young (1st year)

Stadium: Boone Pickens Stadium (48,000)
Tickets: 405-744-5745
Site: Stillwater
Official athletic Web site:
www.okstate.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	11	Zac Robinson (6-3, 218, Sr.)
FB	37	Bryant Ward (5-11, 225, Jr.)
RB	24	Kendall Hunter (5-8, 190, Jr.)
LOT	76	Russell Okung (6-6, 305, Sr.)
LOG	70	Jonathan Rush (6-5, 309, So.)
C	54	Andrew Lewis (6-5, 290, Sr.)
ROG	77	Noah Franklin (6-5, 310, Sr.)
ROT	60	Brady Bond (6-7, 295, Sr.)
TE	86	Wilson Youman (6-4, 252, So.)
WR	1	Dez Bryant (6-2, 215, Jr.)
WR	80	DeMarcus Conner (6-1, 206, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	91	Ugo Chinasa (6-5, 253, Jr.)
LDT	98	Derek Burton (6-3, 285, Sr.)
RDT	90	Swanson Miller (6-4, 300, Sr.)
RDE	97	Jeremiah Price (6-2, 260, Sr.)
SLB	20	Andre Sexton (6-0, 217, Sr.)
MLB	41	Orie Lemon (6-1, 249, Sr.)
WLB	4	Patrick Lavine (6-2, 222, Sr.)
LCB	23	Terrance Anderson (5-11, 185, Sr.)
RCB	16	Perrish Cox (6-0, 195, Sr.)
FS	12	Johnny Thomas (6-0, 195, So.)
SS	3	Victor Johnson (6-1, 175, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	95	Dan Bailey (6-1, 285, Jr.)
P	38	Grayson Buster (5-11, 180, So.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — **Anthony Morgan**, *G, 6-4, 325*
Don't be surprised if Morgan is starting by the end of the first practice in the fall.

2 — **Dexter Pratt**, *ATH, 6-2, 227*
Pratt has speed, hands and a physical build. He could star at running back, fullback or even linebacker for Oklahoma State.

3 — **Jeremy Smith**, *RB, 5-10, 206*
A versatile and pass-friendly back, Smith will be a perfect fit for the Cowboys' explosive offense.

4 — **Brandon Webb**, *G, 6-4, 320*
With great size and athleticism, Webb could end up at guard or center.

5 — **Daytawion Lowe**, *S, 6-0, 175*
Lowe is a physical, hard-hitting safety who excels coming downhill and playing in the box.

JAY DROWNS / SN

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS 4

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	North Dakota	
S.12	Rice	

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 @TEXAS 39-33

The Big 12 needed some early marquee games and this one will attract plenty of attention after the Red Raiders' wild triumph in 2008.

S.26	@HOUSTON	
0.3	New Mexico	
0.10	Kansas State	58-28
0.17	@NEBRASKA	37-31 (OT)
0.24	Texas A&M	43-25
0.31	Kansas	63-21
N.14	@OKLAHOMA STATE	56-20
N.21	Oklahoma	21-65
N.28	@BAYLOR@	35-28

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» SUN BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Front seven is the strength of the defense.
» Crabtree and Harrell were wildly talented, but this offense can create new stars.
» Look for a little more ground game from these Raiders.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Taylor Potts (6-5, 215, Jr.)
RB	25	Baron Batch (5-11, 200, Jr.)
LOT	76	Brandon Carter (6-7, 354, Sr.)
LOG	70	Chris Olson (6-5, 271, Jr.)
C	51	Shawn Byrnes (6-4, 295, Sr.)
ROG	77	Mickey Okafor (6-7, 320, So.)
ROT	67	Marlon Winn (6-6, 325, Sr.)
TE	5	Ryan Hale (6-1, 227, Sr.)
WR	19	Lyle Leong (6-1, 165, Jr.)
WR	17	Detron Lewis (6-0, 209, Jr.)
WR	8	Jacoby Franks (6-1, 194, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	43	McKinner Dixon (6-3, 250, Sr.)
LDT	99	Richard Jones (6-1, 272, Sr.)
RDT	6	Colby Whitlock (6-2, 281, Jr.)
RDE	92	Brandon Sharpe (6-3, 244, Sr.)
SLB	20	Bront Bird (6-3, 220, Jr.)
MLB	57	Brian Duncan (6-1, 238, Jr.)
WLB	39	Marlon Williams (6-0, 224, Sr.)
LCB	3	Jamar Wall (5-10, 195, Sr.)
RCB	28	LaRon Moore (5-9, 186, Jr.)
FS	26	Franklin Mitchem (6-2, 201, Jr.)
SS	16	Cody Davis (6-2, 205, Fr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	85	Matt Williams (5-8, 160, Jr.)
P	49	Donnie Carona (6-0, 215, So.)

Sporting News All-American

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 11-2
Big 12: 7-1
(lost to Ole Miss in the Cotton Bowl, 47-34)

Coach: Mike Leach
10th year (76-39)
Career record: 76-39
Offensive coordinators:
Joe Wickline (1st year)
Gunter Brewer (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Bill Young (1st year)

Stadium: Jones AT&T Stadium (52,882)
Tickets: 806-742-TECH
Site: Lubbock
Official athletic Web site:
www.texastech.com

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN FOR SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Probably nowhere else would a contract negotiation receive as much attention as it did at Texas Tech.

The day before Mike Leach could have been fired, so the speculation went, he signed a five-year, $12.7 million deal. The financial terms weren't the issue. The disagreement came over other provisions.

Leach doesn't need permission from Texas Tech to interview for other jobs, but must notify athletic director Gerald Myers in advance. And school officials weren't happy when Leach went to Seattle before the bowl game to discuss the Washington job.

There's no buyout if Leach takes another job, and Leach and Texas Tech compromised on the use of the coach's likeness and income from outside sources.

How did this get to be such a big story? First, Leach's personality is as big as west Texas. He's a can't-miss at scheduled media opportunities and even better in a one-on-one situation.

But now comes the hard part: carrying on without record-setting quarterback Graham Harrell, the only player in NCAA history with two 5,000-yard passing seasons, and Michael Crabtree, a two-time winner of the Biletnikoff Award, given to college football's top receiver.

Stepping in at quarterback is Taylor Potts, who has greater size and better arm strength than any of Leach's previous quarterbacks. Plus, he's had two years of watching Harrell.

"He's talented as far as size and strong arm, but probably the biggest thing would be he's a real coachable guy," Leach says.

But who will step in for Crabtree, who had 93 receptions and 18 touchdowns? The primary target could be Detron Lewis (76 catches, 3 TDs).

The running game was productive in 2008. As much as Texas Tech throws, it produced 2,320 yards and 22 touchdowns on the ground and leading rusher Baron Batch (742 yards) returns.

The Red Raiders' offensive line manhandled most defensive thrusts last year, and this year's group will be anchored by Brandon Carter. During spring drills, Carter dropped some weight and made the move to tackle.

On the defensive front, senior Richard Jones is ready to dial it up a notch.

He's been part of the rotation since his freshman year and started eight games last season. And with Colby Whitlock, the Red Raiders again look strong up front.

Brian Duncan, the team's best tackler (89), leads a group of returning linebackers. Also back among the linebacking corps are Bront Bird and Marlon Williams.

The concern is in the secondary, where replacements must be found for Darcel McBath and Daniel Charbonnet, who combined for 12 interceptions last year.

Back at kicker is Matt Williams, the contest winner who became a school folk hero last season.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Eric Stephens
RB, 5-8, 177
A nightmare in space and natural pass-catcher, Stephens displays all the traits needed to be a running back in Mike Leach's offense.

2 Eric Ward
WR, 5-11, 190
A thick and speedy receiver, Ward will be a dynamic big-play threat for the Red Raiders out of the slot.

3 Pearlie Graves
DT, 6-3, 260
Graves has tremendous quickness for a lineman and should be a disruptive penetrator at the next level.

4 Myles Wade
DT, 6-2, 311
An Oregon signee out of high school, Wade will be asked to contribute early on the defensive line.

5 Kyle Clark
OT, 6-5, 267
An athletic lineman with a mean streak, Clark will get better as he continues to add weight.

THE NEXT BIG THING

TAYLOR POTTS, QB

If history is a guide, Taylor Potts will go from not taking significant snaps as a college quarterback to becoming the nation's leader (or among the leaders) in passing yards and touchdowns. That's just how it works at Texas Tech.

5 BAYLOR BEARS

Robert Griffin quit the hurdles. That's how much he wants to be a top-level quarterback.

Griffin loves the hurdles, and he's good in the event. Last year, he graduated from high school one semester early to enroll at Baylor.

After spring football workouts, he joined the track team and won the 400-meter hurdles at the Big 12 meet. He was ranked fourth nationally in the event in 2008 and is seen as a contender for the 2012 Olympics, depending on his football schedule.

"What he's doing is sacrificing an opportunity for this football team and the other players on this team," Bears coach Art Briles says. "That's part of being a great leader."

As good as he is on the track, Griffin was even more dazzling on the gridiron during a season in which he was named Big 12 Newcomer of the Year. He passed for 2,091 yards and 15 touchdowns and ran for 843 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Because he spent the offseason playing football, Briles says Griffin's improvement was noticeable.

"He's so much stronger physically," Briles says.

Now, the next step is getting Baylor to a bowl game. That hasn't happened for the Bears since 1994, which spans the program's entire Big 12 life. Optimism is high because the program's talent runs deeper than Griffin.

Nine starters are back on offense, although one of the departed was tackle Jason Smith, the league's best offensive lineman in 2008 and the No. 2 overall pick in the NFL draft.

Guards James Barnard and Jordan Hearvey are back along with center J.D. Walton, who has become one of the league's best.

As good as Griffin was, he wasn't Baylor's leading rusher. That honor went to Jay Finley (865 rushing yards, 7 TDs).

The wide-receiver group is stocked with experience. Kendall Wright (50 passes, 649 yards, 5 TDs), Ernest Smith (3 TDs) and David Gettis (18 career starts) are all back, as is tight end Justin Akers (14 receptions, 2 TDs).

Nine starters also return on defense, including two of the program's more heralded performers in the Big 12.

Linebacker Joe Pawelek was the only player in college football to be ranked in the top 10 nationally in tackles and interceptions per game in 2008.

The other standout is free safety Jordan Lake. He's a tackling machine who is one of the Big 12's biggest hitters.

There's experience in the secondary. Senior Jeremy Williams is the starter at "hero" safety, while cornerbacks Tim Atchison, Antareis Bryan and Trentson Hill have 41 career starts combined.

Senior Trey Bryant is a solid nose guard and is flanked at tackle by Jason Lamb and Penn State transfer Phil Taylor. Taylor will likely get the starting nod after a solid spring. Sophomores Zac Scotton and Tracy Robertson are the projected starters at defensive end.

Kicker Ben Parks, punter Derek Epperson, snapper Carter Brunelle and return specialist Mikail Baker are all back. The question is, will that translate into success for Baylor?

THE NEXT BIG THING

PHIL TAYLOR, DT

Taylor was part of an excellent defense at Penn State. He started the final four games of 2007 and played well in the victory over Texas A&M in the Alamo Bowl.

ROBERT GRIFFIN • QB

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
Big 12: 2-6

Coach: Art Briles
2nd year (4-8)
Career Record: 38-35
Offensive coordinators:
Randy Clements (2nd year) and Philip Montgomery (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Brian Norwood (2nd year)

Stadium: Floyd Casey Stadium (50,000)
Tickets: 800-BAYLOR-U
Site: Waco, Texas
Official athletic Web site:
www.baylorbears.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@WAKE FOREST	13-41
S.19	Connecticut	28-31
S.26	Northwestern State	51-6
0.3	Kent State	
0.10	@OKLAHOMA	17-49
0.17	@IOWA STATE	38-10
0.24	Oklahoma State	6-34
0.31	Nebraska	20-32
N.7	@MISSOURI	28-31

GAME TO WATCH

N.14 Texas **21-45**

The Bears figure to play everybody tough this season, but no victory would mean more than this one.

N.21	@TEXAS A&M	41-21
N.28	Texas Tech*	28-35

** at Arlington, TX*

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» INDEPENDENCE BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Plenty of potential for a better grade, but it's not easy climbing in the Big 12.
- Griffin is a special player. Think Vince Young, early years.
- Pawelek and Lake are the program's heart and soul.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Robert Griffin (6-3, 200, So.)
RB	32	Jay Finley (5-11, 205, Jr.)
LOT	58	Danny Watkins (6-4, 310, Jr.)
LOG	75	Jordan Hearvey (6-5, 270, Sr.)
C	55	J.D. Walton (6-3, 305, Sr.)
ROG	61	James Barnard (6-4, 295, Sr.)
ROT	69	Cameron Kaufhold (6-4, 285, Fr.)
TE	14	Justin Akers (6-4, 250, Sr.)
WR	1	Kendall Wright (5-11, 180, So.)
WR	13	Ernest Smith (6-3, 195, Sr.)
WR	4	David Gettis (6-4, 210, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	57	Tracy Robertson (6-4, 260, So.)
LDT	98	Phil Taylor (6-4, 355, Jr.)
RDT	97	Trey Bryant (6-2, 310, Sr.)
RDE	96	Zac Scotton (6-7, 260, So.)
SLB	6	Antonio Jones (6-2, 225, Sr.)
MLB	41	Joe Pawelek (6-2, 240, Sr.)
WLB	7	Antonio Johnson (6-0, 210, Jr.)
LCB	8	Tim Atchison (6-1, 205, Jr.)
RCB	3	Antareis Bryan (6-2, 190, Jr.)
FS	21	Jordan Lake (6-1, 210, Sr.)
SS	4	Jeremy Williams (5-11, 205, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	40	Ben Parks (6-2, 205, So.)
P	38	Derek Epperson (6-3, 240, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
Glasco Martin
ATH, 6-1, 196
Despite the ability to be a dominant receiver, Martin was on the ground as a prep, rushing for more than 1,600 yards.

2
Danny Watkins
OT, 6-5, 290
Watkins is a 24-year-old junior and should push for a starting job early in his career.

3
Ivory Wade
G, 6-4, 306
Wade has an NFL-type body, nimble feet and good upfield athleticism, giving the Bears immediate line depth.

4
Darius Jones
ATH, 6-0, 185
A do-everything athlete in high school, Jones will most likely find himself in the slot position.

5
Josh Gordon
WR, 6-4, 211
Gordon is talented and may have as much potential as any wide receiver from Texas in the class of 2009.

JAY DROWNS / SN

TEXAS A&M AGGIES 6

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	New Mexico	28-22

The Aggies needed a good showing right out of the gate, or else it might be another long season in College Station.

S.19	Utah State	
S.26	UAB	
0.3	Arkansas*	
0.10	Oklahoma State	28-56
0.17	@KANSAS STATE	30-44
0.24	@TEXAS TECH	25-43
0.31	Iowa State	49-35
N.7	@COLORADO	24-17
N.14	@OKLAHOMA	28-66
N.21	Baylor	21-41
N.26	Texas	9-49

** at Arlington, TX*

PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Johnson has to take the next step at QB and Aggies must find a top reserve.
- Miller could be a beast at a hybrid position.
- Too many questions remain for Texas A&M to challenge the division leaders.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
Big 12: 2-6

Coach: Mike Sherman
2nd year (4-8)
Career record: 4-8
Offensive coordinator:
Nolan Cromwell (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Joe Kines (2nd year)

Stadium: Kyle Field (82,600)
Tickets: 979-845-2311
Site: College Station
Official athletic Web site:
www.aggieathletics.com

MANNY FLORES / CAL SPORT MEDIA

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	1	Jerrod Johnson (6-5, 229, Jr.)
FB	33	Jay Tolliver (5-10, 197, Fr.)
RB	32	Cyrus Gray (5-10, 188, So.)
LOT	76	Michael Shumard (6-5, 301, Sr.)
LOG	65	Evan Eike (6-4, 303, So.)
C	63	Kevin Matthews (6-4, 297, Sr.)
ROG	74	Lee Grimes (6-6, 339, Sr.)
ROT	61	Vincent Williams (6-4, 314, Sr.)
TE	4	Jamie McCoy (6-3, 224, Sr.)
WR	8	Jeff Fuller (6-4, 209, So.)
WR	83	Terrence McCoy (6-4, 198, Jr.)

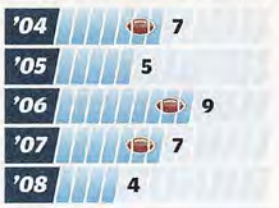
DEFENSE

LDE	93	Paul Freeney (6-4, 227, Sr.)
LDT	83	Tony Jerod-Eddie (6-5, 256, So.)
RDT	77	Lucas Patterson (6-4, 297, Jr.)
RDE	19	Eddie Brown (6-0, 265, So.)
SLB	40	Von Miller (6-3, 214, Jr.)
MLB	46	Michael Hodges (6-0, 214, So.)
WLB	32	Kyle Mangan (6-2, 220, Fr.)
LCB	25	Jordan Pugh (5-11, 191, Sr.)
RCB	21	Justin McQueen (6-0, 183, So.)
FS	5	Jordan Peterson (5-10, 184, Sr.)
SS	22	Trent Hunter (5-10, 185, So.)

SPECIALISTS

KFG	28	Randy Bullock (5-9, 208, So.)
P	84	Jeff Wood (6-4, 213, Jr.)

5-YEAR WINS TREND



RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Christine Michael
RB, 5-11, 202
Perhaps no true freshman in the nation has the potential to make as much of an impact as Michael.

2 — Jonathan Stewart
LB, 6-4, 221
Stewart is a physically imposing linebacker who plays the game downhill and packs a punch.

3 — Patrick Lewis
OL, 6-2, 293
Though he is undersized, Lewis is incredibly athletic and finishes blocks as well as any lineman you will find.

4 — Coryell Judie
CB, 5-11, 185
Judie has the size you want out of a lockdown cornerback and possesses speed to boot.

5 — Uzoma Nwachukwu
WR, 6-0, 186
Nwachukwu is a physical receiver who takes as much pride in his downfield blocking as he does in his receiving.

The Mike Sherman era started with a home loss to Arkansas State, and the rest of 2008 didn't get much better. From a bowl appearance the previous year to a struggling 4-8 mark, the Aggies had a season to forget.

The biggest issue was team speed. Texas A&M didn't have it last season. This was a team that didn't run the ball well (88.5 yards per game), failed to create havoc in the backfield (16 sacks) and couldn't stop the air attack (opponents completed 64.2 percent of their passes last season).

It all made for the most important recruiting class in years.

Sherman signed 28 recruits, with 20 of those playing wide receiver, running back, defensive back or linebacker. As defensive coordinator Joe Kines said, the Aggies signed more sprinters than shot putters.

How did this happen? The Aggies got caught in their coaching transition. Former coach Dennis Franchione wanted power and strength. Sherman wants speed and skill.

Quarterback Stephen McGee played less than two games last year because of a shoulder injury and the team soon belonged to Jerrod Johnson, who had his moments.

Johnson threw 21 touchdowns while completing 59.5 percent of his passes. But there was also that four-interception loss to Baylor.

Sherman wanted to throw the position open for competition in the spring, and he accommodated Ryan Tannehill's request to move to quarterback from wide receiver. Tannehill set a school freshman record with 844 receiving yards in 2008 while leading the Aggies with 55 receptions.

But Tannehill missed all of spring practice after having shoulder surgery.

Even if Tannehill stays at quarterback, the Aggies won't be without a standout receiver. Jeff Fuller (50 receptions, team-best 9 TDs) returns.

At running back, Bradley Stephens and Cyrus Gray are the leaders but the Aggies' highest-rated recruit is running back Christine Michael.

Four starters return to the offensive line, but that unit was a mess during the spring with only eight healthy scholarship participants. The coaching staff is hopeful the line can get it together, as Texas A&M averaged only 2.9 yards per carry in 2008.

There's more hope for improvement on the defensive side. The staff got a big spring from end Von Miller, who plays what the Aggies call a "jack," or hybrid end/linebacker.

Miller came up huge in the spring game and looked excellent during offseason workouts.

Safeties Jordan Peterson and Trent Hunter also had good springs, as did linebackers Kyle Mangan and Michael Hodges.

Sherman declared the defense ahead of the offense after spring ball, and he'd like for the whole thing to progress faster.

"We're trying to become a championship team," Sherman says. "When that will happen, I can't tell you. But if we keep recruiting the way we're doing and the coaches do their jobs, we can be a championship team."

THE NEXT BIG THING

CHRISTINE MICHAEL, RB

The freshman is expected to be thrown into the running back rotation immediately. He joins a team that had only five runs of 20 yards or more last season.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

C-USA

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

EAST

1 ECU
2 Southern Miss
3 Memphis
4 UCF
5 Marshall
6 UAB

WEST

1 Houston
2 Tulsa
3 UTEP
4 SMU
5 Rice
6 Tulane

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Tyron Carrier, Houston

Best Hands
Emmanuel Sanders, WR, SMU

Best Passing QB
Case Keenum, Houston

Best Running QB
Joe Webb, UAB

Most Elusive RB
Damion Fletcher, Southern Miss

Best Instincts
Curtis Steele, RB, Memphis

Best Athlete
Damaris Johnson, WR, Tulsa

Best Under Pressure
Ben Hartman, K, East Carolina

Top NFL Prospect
Damion Fletcher, RB, Southern Miss

Top Impact Freshman
Darius Johnson, WR, SMU

Hardest Hitter
Van Eskridge, FS, East Carolina

Biggest Underachiever
UTEP

Best Home-Field Advantage
East Carolina

Best Fans
East Carolina

Best Mascot
TOM III, Memphis' live tiger

Best Stadium
Ford Stadium, SMU

In a conference full of offensive gems, defense still reigns supreme

By Eric Bailey, *Tulsa World*

Defensive coordinators were left dizzy preparing for Conference USA offenses in 2008.

With 401.8 yards per game, C-USA was one of two Football Bowl Subdivision leagues that averaged more than 400 yards of total offense per contest. The Big 12 (439.6) was the only conference with larger numbers.

In the league's first dozen seasons, only twice had a team reached the 70-point mark. Last year, four different schools met that, with Tulsa and Rice each putting up 77 in their respective contests.

"I think the talent level of this conference is pretty high, and it's the culmination of what everyone is talking about," SMU coach June Jones says.

Conference USA had a banner season in 2008, setting the league record with four bowl wins. East Carolina and Tulsa also both cracked the Top 25 during the season

Will that trend continue? It depends on the offenses. For some, things look promising. For others, there are questions.

Houston will be led by quarterback and reigning C-USA Offensive Player of the Year Case Keenum. Southern Miss, which bought into new coach Larry Fedora's no-huddle attack last year, returns the league's best rusher in Damion Fletcher. Tulsa has led the nation in total offense in consecutive seasons, but co-offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn has departed for Auburn.

After a season of watching C-USA's teams rattle scoreboards, the league's final game proved an old football truth: Defense wins championships.

Tulsa averaged 60.5 points per home game during the regular season, but lost 27-24 to East Carolina in the C-USA championship game.

What did that prove to C-USA coaches?

"Everybody knows how to throw the football and move the ball and score," Southern Miss coach Larry Fedora says. "But what it boils down to is that the team that plays the best defense will win the league."

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Barton Simmons, *Rivals.com*

1. SOUTHERN MISS Larry Fedora is proving he is going to be a consistent heavyweight on the recruiting trail.
2. TULSA Quarterback Shavodrick Beaver should fit nicely in Tulsa's explosive offense.
3. HOUSTON Kevin Sumlin has Houston recruiting at a high level.
4. UAB After back-to-back subpar classes, UAB gained a solid mix of junior-college prospects and high school players.
5. UCF With signees such as four-star prospect Josh Robinson, UCF is proving that it can land some of Florida's best talent.
6. MEMPHIS Some of the top prospects come from the junior college ranks.
7. RICE A versatile quarterback in Taylor McHargue and a few highly recruited defenders make this a well-rounded class.
8. SMU The offensive line received a huge boost with several prospects who should add immediate depth.
9. TULANE With a number of players who could line up on either side of the ball, Tulane picked up some speed and versatility in 2009.
10. EAST CAROLINA The Pirates' well-balanced class fell near the bottom of the C-USA recruiting rankings.
11. MARSHALL Some steals out of Florida, particularly at linebacker, are the bright spots in Mark Snyder's 2009 class.
12. UTEP The Miners added a quarterback of the future in Andy McCloud.

ALL-CONFERENCE USA

OFFENSE

QB Case Keenum, Jr., Houston
RB Damion Fletcher, Sr., Southern Miss
RB Curtis Steele, Sr., Memphis
OL Robby Felix, Sr., UTEP
OL Sean Allen, Sr., East Carolina
OL Jake Seitz, Sr., UAB
OL Ryan Hebert, Sr., Southern Miss
OL Tyler Holmes, So., Tulsa
TE Cody Slate, Sr., Marshall
WR DeAndre Brown, So., Southern Miss
WR Tyron Carrier, So., Houston

DEFENSE

DL C.J. Wilson, Sr., East Carolina
DL Albert McClellan, Sr., Marshall
DL Anthony Gray, Jr., Southern Miss
DL Bruce Miller, Jr., UCF
LB Nick Johnson, Sr., East Carolina
LB Mario Harvey, Sr., Marshall
LB Mike Bryan, Sr., Tulsa
DB Van Eskridge, Sr., East Carolina
DB Eddie Hicks, Sr., Southern Miss
DB Andrew Sendejo, Sr., Rice
DB James Lockett, Sr., Tulsa

SPECIALISTS

K Ben Hartman, Sr., East Carolina
P Ross Thevenot, Sr., Tulane

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 East Carolina will make its second straight appearance in the C-USA title game after a home-field win over Southern Miss in the season's final week.

2 Tulsa's defense will improve, but its high-powered offense will take a step back after leading the nation for two consecutive seasons.

3 SMU will make strides toward its first bowl appearance since the NCAA death-penalty days of the mid-80s, thanks to June Jones' rebuilding project.

4 Tulane will continue to find things difficult with its traditional offensive scheme while playing against five other West Division schools that like up-tempo football.

ASCENDING

SOUTHERN MISS The Golden Eagles grasped Larry Fedora's uptempo offense and won their final five games last season. Plus, the defense turned fierce in the closing weeks.

DESCENDING

RICE Two bowl appearances in three years have been inspiring, but a depleted roster may mean the Owls face a rebuilding season in 2009.

Clint Bowyer, Sprint Cup driver of the No. 33 Chevrolet, with his 1949 Mercury and matching 2009 Harley-Davidson.

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C-USA EAST PRESEASON RANK

1 EAST CAROLINA PIRATES

Entering his fifth season at ECU, Skip Holtz's father, Hall-of-Fame coach Lou Holtz, once shared wise words with one of his many football teams: "If what you did yesterday seems big to you, it means you haven't accomplished anything today."

Holtz is making sure his Pirates understand the meaning of that sentence.

Celebrating last year's C-USA championship is complete, and the Pirates are in search of more hardware for the trophy case.

"You can't be satisfied with where you are," Holtz says. "Both in football and life, you've never arrived. As soon as you think you have, you're knocked down again."

Things are unfolding for another successful season as ECU returns eight starters on offense, another eight on defense and all of its special-teams members from last year's 9-5 squad.

Quarterback Patrick Pinkney (2,675 passing yards, 13 TDs) has matured in the past two seasons, and will be a vital member of the Pirates' offense.

"Being experienced at the quarterback position, especially with the development of the spread offense, is really big," Holtz says. "It helps having a guy that led this football team and played the way he did in big games. That experience and leadership is invaluable."

Brandon Jackson, a transfer from Kentucky, has impressed coaches and could make a case for the vacated running-back spot. Seniors J.R. Rogers and Dominique Lindsay are competing there as well.

The wide-receiver corps was shaken up last season when Jamar Bryant was suspended for breaking team rules and Dwayne Harris suffered a season-ending broken foot. The losses did allow playing time for Alex Taylor and Joe Womack. All are expected back in 2009.

The Pirates finished among C-USA's top three in 12 defensive categories, including league-best marks in scoring defense, total defense and red-zone defense.

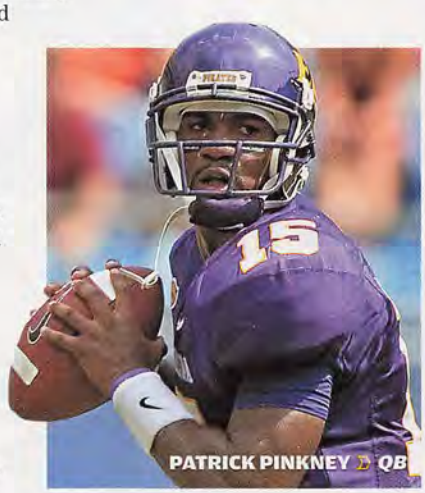
"The defense did a phenomenal job, when you consider how many injuries that we had on the offensive side of the ball last year," Holtz says.

An experienced line is highlighted by end C.J. Wilson, who had 10.5 sacks last season. Tackles Linval Joseph and Jay Ross will provide key support.

The linebackers are solid, as leading tackler Nick Johnson (102 stops) returns at middle linebacker. Outside linebacker Jeremy Chambliss had 60 tackles in 2008. Chris Mattocks will get the nod on the other side.

Free safety Van Eskridge had 97 tackles and four interceptions last season and will patrol the middle. Devon Wallace and Derek Blacknail are competing at strong safety, and starting cornerbacks Travis Simmons and Dekota Marshall return as well.

"There's a lot of name recognition on defense, but we have to develop the younger guys and have them pick up their games for us to have a quality year," Holtz says.



PATRICK PINKNEY ▷ QB

THE NEXT BIG THING

GIAVANNI RUFFIN, RB

The talented Ruffin is a junior-college transfer who could compete for playing time right away.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Appalachian State	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.12	@WEST VIRGINIA	24-3
The Mountaineers will be looking for revenge after ECU captured a 24-3 home victory in 2008.		
S.19	@NORTH CAROLINA	
S.26	UCF	13-10 (OT)
0.3	@MARSHALL	19-16 (OT)
0.10	@SMU	
0.17	Rice	
0.27	@MEMPHIS	30-10
N.5	Virginia Tech	27-22
N.15	@TULSA	27-24
N.21	UAB	17-13
N.28	Southern Miss	3-21

BOWL PROJECTION
GMAC BOWL

LOWER TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Battle-tested, veteran team should know how to handle success.
- Defense could not only be one of league's best, but nation's as well.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-5
C-USA: 6-2
(lost to Kentucky in the Liberty Bowl, 25-19)

Coach: Skip Holtz
5th year (29-22)
Career record: 29-22 (FBS)
Offensive coordinator:
Todd Fitch (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Greg Hudson (5th year)

Stadium: Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (43,000)
Tickets: 800-DIAL-ECU
Site: Greenville, N.C.
Official athletic Web site:
www.ecupirates.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Patrick Pinkney (6-0, 198, Sr.)
RB	7	Brandon Jackson (5-10, 195, So.)
LOT	64	Travis Melvin (6-6, 291, Jr.)
LOG	74	Terence Campbell (6-5, 320, Sr.)
C	54	Sean Allen (6-3, 307, Sr.)
ROG	75	Cory Dowless (6-5, 287, Jr.)
ROT	66	D.J. Scott (6-6, 320, Jr.)
TE	45	Kevin Gidrey (6-2, 260, Jr.)
WR	82	Joe Womack (6-1, 195, So.)
WR	10	Jamar Bryant (6-2, 208, Sr.)
WR	17	Dwayne Harris (6-0, 198, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	46	A.J. Johnson (6-2, 256, Jr.)
LDT	90	Jay Ross (6-3, 300, Sr.)
RDT	97	Linval Joseph (6-6, 285, Jr.)
RDE	95	C.J. Wilson (6-4, 271, Sr.)
SLB	19	Chris Mattocks (6-0, 210, Sr.)
MLB	44	Nick Johnson (6-1, 215, Sr.)
WLB	49	Jeremy Chambliss (6-0, 227, Jr.)
LCB	23	Dekota Marshall (6-1, 195, Jr.)
RCB	13	Travis Simmons (5-10, 179, Jr.)
FS	4	Van Eskridge (6-0, 200, Sr.)
SS	26	Derek Blacknall (5-11, 190, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	30	Ben Hartman (5-11, 210, Jr.)
P	42	Matt Dodge (6-2, 220, Sr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Reese Wiggins
WR, 5-10, 181
Wiggins is a crisp route-runner with sure hands whose polish and consistency will be a welcome addition to the roster.

2 Michael Dobson
S, 6-0, 185
Dobson rushed for more than 1,700 yards at running back as a senior last year, but he projects as a safety in college.

3 Giavanni Ruffin
RB, 6-1, 210
Ruffin is a big power back with an added dimension of being a good receiver out of the backfield.

4 Will Simmons
G, 6-5, 322
Simmons has great size and was a four-year starter for his high school team.

5 Justin Jones
TE, 6-6, 234
Jones is a massive tight-end prospect who also starred on defense but could project as an offensive tackle.

CHRIS KEANE / ICON SMI

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI GOLDEN EAGLES

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Alcorn State	
S.12	UCF	17-6
S.19	Virginia	
S.26	@KANSAS	
O.1	@UAB	70-14
O.10	@LOUISVILLE	
O.17	Memphis	30-36
O.24	Tulane	
O.31	@HOUSTON	
N.14	@MARSHALL	27-34
N.21	Tulsa	

GAME TO WATCH

N.28 @EAST CAROLINA **21-3**

The Golden Eagles soldified thier late-season turnaround by thumping the Pirates. East Carolina will be looking for revenge and the winner will likely take the East Division crown.

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» ST. PETERSBURG BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» Southern Miss bought into Fedora's system quickly, which is a plus.

» Austin Davis excelled in Year 1 of learning the no-huddle system, and should be better.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Austin Davis (6-2, 206, So.)
FB	40	Josh Hurd (6-0, 220, Jr.)
RB	25	Damion Fletcher (5-10, 177, Sr.)
LOT	73	Kyle Burkhart (6-5, 275, Sr.)
LOG	69	Micah Brown (6-2, 287, Sr.)
C	59	Cameron Zipp (6-1, 297, Jr.)
ROG	71	Ryan Hebert (6-5, 310, Sr.)
ROT	72	Calvin Wilson (6-6, 353, Sr.)
TE	19	Jonathan Massey (6-3, 251, Jr.)
WR	5	DeAndre Brown (6-6, 228, So.)
WR	6	Freddie Parham (6-0, 172, Sr.)

DEFENSE

DE	91	Deddrick Jones (6-3, 242, So.)
NT	95	Anthony Gray (6-0, 301, Jr.)
DT	99	Rolando Barragan (6-3, 295, Sr.)
DE	45	Roshaad Byrd (6-3, 247, Jr.)
SLB	32	Martez Smith (6-0, 211, Jr.)
MLB	42	Korey Williams (6-2, 228, So.)
WLB	56	Ronnie Thornton (6-3, 230, Fr.)
CB	12	Andre Watson (5-10, 180, Sr.)
CB	20	C.J. Bailey (5-10, 189, Jr.)
SS	8	Justin Wilson (5-11, 187, Jr.)
FS	18	Eddie Hicks (6-2, 183, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	80	Daniel Hrapmann (5-9, 152, So.)
P	3	Bret Jefcoat (6-1, 200, Fr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
C-USA: 4-4
(beat Troy in the New Orleans Bowl in overtime, 30-27)

Coach: Larry Fedora
2nd year (7-6)
Career record: 7-6
Offensive coordinator:
Darrell Wyatt (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Todd Bradford (2nd year)

Stadium: M.M. Roberts Stadium (33,000)
Tickets: 800-844-TICK
Site: Hattiesburg
Official athletic Web site:
www.southernmiss.com

ALBERT PENA / CAL SPORT MEDIA

5-YEAR WINS TREND

"Life is short. Go no-huddle."

Southern Miss coach Larry Fedora showed he's just as quick on Twitter as he is running his no-huddle offense, writing those words during spring drills.

Nothing is slow in Hattiesburg these days—the offense is at full speed, the defense is at high intensity and the fans anxiously await the 2009 season.

"Our expectations are to win every game that we play," Fedora says. "That's what we expect to do. That's the goal that the guys have set and we feel like they're attainable. If we play like we're capable of playing and stay healthy, we can do those things."

Despite a 7-6 rookie campaign, Fedora took the Eagles on a five-game winning streak into the offseason, where they made their seventh consecutive bowl appearance (New Orleans Bowl). Now Southern Miss joins only Florida State, Florida and Virginia Tech as teams that have strung together 15 or more straight winning campaigns.

"The team got a lot of momentum and the fans got a lot of momentum," Fedora says. "It carried over into spring football and, hopefully, into next season."

How excited were fans during Year 1 of the Fedora era? Southern Miss set attendance records, despite losing four of its six home contests.

Offense helped fill the seats, as the team broke 36 school records and tied six more.

"We're going to continue to do the same things and try to build off last year," Fedora says. "I feel like players have a better understanding of what we're trying to accomplish this spring."

Quarterback Austin Davis threw for 3,128 yards and 23 touchdowns while grasping the no-huddle spread attack.

"In this system, he did more as a first-year quarterback than any quarterback I have had," says Fedora of the sophomore. "We're looking on improving the finer parts of the game and making sure he understands how to manage the game in each situation."

His primary receiver, DeAndre Brown, led the nation's freshmen in receiving yards (1,117) and touchdowns (12). Brown suffered a broken leg in the New Orleans Bowl, but Fedora says he may be available for the season's start.

The running game is anchored by Damion Fletcher, who led C-USA in rushing (1,313 yards) last season.

The Southern Miss defense looked like its old self late in 2008. During its season-ending five-game win streak, the Golden Eagles gave up an average of 12.4 points per contest.

"Our young players grew up and made plays," Fedora says.

Eight starting defenders come back for Southern Miss, including Anthony Gray and Deddrick Jones on the line.

Martez Smith and Roshaad Byrd lead the linebackers, who hope to build on last year's solid campaign.

The secondary returns an experienced crew, led by safeties Eddie Hicks (4 INTs) and Justin Wilson (4). Cornerbacks Andre Watson and C.J. Bailey are also back.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Kendrick Hardy
RB, 6-0, 210
Hardy's signing was big for Southern Miss, which beat the likes of some SEC schools for his signature.

2 — Justin Jordan
WR, 5-11, 190
Jordan will be a talented and much-needed complement to DeAndre Brown on the outside.

3 — Ben Schoenberger
OT, 6-5, 290
A tough and physical prospect, Schoenberger should be able to contribute immediately on the offensive line.

4 — Jacoby Bell
TE, 6-3, 210
Bell is a versatile athlete who could be used as an outside linebacker, tight end, fullback or defensive end.

5 — Tracey Lampley
RB, 5-9, 170
With his athleticism and ability to make plays in space, Lampley is a perfect fit for the Golden Eagles' offense.

THE NEXT BIG THING

JUSTIN JORDAN, WR

The junior-college wide receiver from Blinn (Texas) College should help Southern Miss' passing game purr.

3 MEMPHIS TIGERS

Tommy West has built a football program that consistently advances to postseason play.

But now it's time for the next step—playing in the team's hometown Liberty Bowl, which is reserved for the C-USA champion.

"[Bowls] were our goal when we started because of the situation where we hadn't been a consistent bowl team," West says. "Now we're trying to move this program to where we can contend for a championship and get into the Conference USA championship game."

But the team is young.

Quarterback Arkelon Hall started 11 games last year and enters fall camp fighting for his job with Brett Toney, Byron Ingram and Tyler Bass.

Whoever wins will have two of the league's top wide receivers at his disposal in Duke Calhoun and Carlos Singleton. Calhoun has caught a pass in 37 consecutive games, the third-longest active streak in the nation. Singleton, one of the country's tallest wideouts at 6-8, has tied a school record with 19 touchdowns.

Also returning is tailback Curtis Steele (1,223 rushing yards), the first Tiger since DeAngelo Williams in 2005 to top 1,000 yards in a season.

"We haven't had a good enough running game to compete for the championship since [Williams]," West says. "We have that back with [Steele]."

Linemen Dominik Riley, Ronald Leary and Malcom Rawls are all back to pave the way for Steele.

Returning starting linebackers Greg Jackson, Winston Bowens and Jeremy Longstreet will anchor the defense. Safety Alton Starr also comes back after leading the team with 90 tackles last season.

Kicker Matt Reagan highlights the special teams.

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» TEXAS BOWL

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
A.30	Ole Miss	24-41
The nationally televised Sunday game pits the Tigers against a quality SEC opponent, and an upset could be an early springboard to 2009 success.		
S.12	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
S.19	Tennessee-Martin	
S.26	Marshall	16-17
O.3	@UCF	21-28
O.10	UTEP	
O.17	@SOUTHERN MISS	36-30
O.27	East Carolina	10-30
N.7	@TENNESSEE	
N.14	UAB	33-30
N.21	@HOUSTON	
N.28	@TULSA	

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 6-7
C-USA: 4-4
(lost to South Florida in the St. Petersburg Bowl, 41-14)

Coach: Tommy West
9th year (47-51)
Career record: 82-86
Offensive coordinator:
Clay Helton (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Kenny Ingram (1st year)

Stadium: Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium (62,380)
Tickets: 901-678-2331
Site: Memphis
Official athletic Web site:
www.gotigersgo.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	8	Arkelon Hall (6-3, 225, Sr)
RB	26	Curtis Steele (6-0, 185, So.)
LOT	75	Ronald Leary (6-4, 313, So.)
LOG	61	Michael Antonescu (6-4, 290, So.)
C	64	Dominik Riley (6-4, 315, Jr.)
ROG	77	Malcom Rawls (6-5, 310, Sr.)
ROT	66	Brad Paul (6-3, 290, Jr.)
TE	81	Deven Onarheim (6-7, 255, Jr.)
WR	89	Carlos Singleton (6-8, 220, Sr.)
WR	1	Cam Baker (6-0, 170,So.)
WR	22	Duke Calhoun (6-4, 200, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	96	Jada Brown (6-2, 265, Jr.)
NG	76	Charlie Bryant (6-6, 300, Jr.)
DT	97	Steven Turner (6-3, 270, Sr.)
RDE	94	Greg Terrell (6-4, 255, Sr.)
SLB	28	Jeremy Longstreet (6-1, 205, Jr.)
MLB	50	Winston Bowens (6-0, 250, Jr.)
WLB	59	Greg Jackson (6-2, 212, Sr.)
LCB	5	D.A. Griffin (5-11, 185 Jr.)
RCB	16	Deante' Lamar (5-9, 180 Sr.)
FS	7	Alton Starr (6-2, 195, Sr.)
SS	4	Darius Davis (6-0, 190, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	43	Matt Reagan (6-1, 210, Sr.)
P	43	Matt Reagan (6-1, 210, Sr.)

4 CENTRAL FLORIDA KNIGHTS

George O'Leary is a seasoned coach, so it wasn't hard for him to find a point of emphasis for the 2009 UCF football program.

"We played well enough defensively to win a lot of games last season, but the offense just didn't get it done," O'Leary says.

The Knights finished last nationally in total offense (229.5 yards per game) and at the bottom of the conference (16.6 points per game) in scoring offense last year.

It's difficult to win in the C-USA with those numbers, so improvement will be critical.

O'Leary is banking that experience will help an offense that returns 10 starters, despite losing all-conference lineman Patrick Brown.

Starting quarterback Rob Calabrese will be depended on heavily, O'Leary says.

Playmakers at Calabrese's disposal include running back Brynn Harvey (519 yards) and the team's top wide receivers Kamar Aiken and Rocky Ross, who has recovered from injury. A.J. Guyton and Brian Watters should add depth at the receiver position.

Defense is where this team will hang its hat.

The unit was second in C-USA in total defense (333.8 ypg) and scoring defense (24.1 ppg) in 2008, but must replace its entire secondary.

Team leaders include linebacker Lawrence Young and safety Derrick Hallman.

Linemen Travis Timmons, Bruce Miller and Torrell Troup also anchor a unit that led C-USA in rushing defense last year.

The secondary graduated many starters, but O'Leary says it is not lacking experience.

"We have kids that have been waiting for their turn," O'Leary says. "A lot of the kids saw playing time of some form, be it a nickel or dime (package) and in special teams. It's now just about getting the right four guys out there."

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Samford	
S.12	@SOUTHERN MISS	6-17
S.19	Buffalo	
S.26	@EAST CAROLINA	10-13 (OT)
O.3	Memphis	28-21
GAME TO WATCH		
O.17	Miami (FL)	14-20
O'Leary has said for C-USA to gain national respect, it needs to win nonconference games against marquee opponents. This is a chance for UCF to get a home victory.		
O.24	@RICE	
N.1	Marshall	30-14
N.7	@TEXAS	
N.14	Houston	
N.21	Tulane	
N.28	@UAB	0-15

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
C-USA: 3-5

Coach: George O'Leary
5th year (26-36)
Career record: 78-69
Offensive coordinator:
Charlie Taaffe (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Dave Huxtable (2nd year)

Stadium: Bright House Networks Stadium (45,323)
Tickets: 407-823-1000
Site: Orlando
Official athletic Web site:
www.ucfathletics.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	4	Rob Calabrese (6-2, 215, So.)
FB	24	Brendan Kelly (6-3, 225, Fr.)
RB	34	Brynn Harvey (6-1, 202, So.)
LOT	77	Nick Pieschel (6-7, 284, So.)
LOG	68	Theo Goins (6-4, 320, Fr.)
C	73	Ian Bustillo (6-2, 302, Sr.)
ROG	70	Steven Robinson (6-3, 314, Fr.)
ROT	76	Jah Reid (6-7, 310, Jr.)
TE	88	Adam Nissley (6-6, 254, So.)
WR	5	Rocky Ross (6-2, 202, Sr.)
WR	81	Kamar Aiken (6-2, 211, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	48	David Williams (6-2, 242, Jr.)
LDT	95	Travis Timmons (6-4, 285, Sr.)
RDT	98	Torrell Troup (6-3, 315, Sr.)
RDE	49	Bruce Miller (6-2, 258, Jr.)
SLB	59	Cory Hogue (6-1, 224, Sr.)
MLB	57	Lawrence Young (6-0, 205, Jr.)
WLB	56	Jordan Richards (6-2, 220, Sr.)
LCB	22	Emery Allen (5-9, 176, Sr.)
RCB	21	Darin Baldwin (5-11, 200, Jr.)
FS	40	Reggie Wearns (6-0, 191, Jr.)
SS	38	Derrick Hallman (6-0, 213, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	16	Nick Cattoi (6-5, 209, So.)
P	41	Bale Clingan (6-3, 228, Jr.)

MARSHALL THUNDERING HERD 5

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Southern Illinois	
S.12	@VIRGINIA TECH	

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 Bowling Green

Marshall can get a good read on its season in Week 3 when Bowling Green visits Huntington, W. Va.

S.26	@MEMPHIS	17-16
O.3	East Carolina	16-19 (OT)
O.10	@TULANE	
O.17	@WEST VIRGINIA	3-27
O.24	UAB	21-23
N.1	@UCF	14-30
N.14	Southern Miss	34-27
N.21	SMU	
N.28	@UTEP	

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
C-USA: 3-5

Coach: Mark Snyder
5th year (16-31)
Career record: 16-31
Offensive coordinator:
John Shannon (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Rick Minter (2nd year)

Stadium: Joan C. Edwards Stadium (38,019)
Tickets: 800-THE-HERD
Site: Huntington, W. Va.
Official athletic Web site:
www.herdzone.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Brian Anderson (6-3, 217, Jr.)
RB	5	Darius Marshall (5-10, 189, Jr.)
LOT	73	Ryan Tillman (6-5, 282, So.)
LOG	71	Chad Schofield (6-4, 316, Jr.)
C	64	John Bruhin (6-5, 303, So.)
ROG	76	Jimmy Rogers (6-4, 302, Sr.)
ROT	79	Daniel Baldridge (6-9, 310, Sr.)
TE	85	Cody Slate (6-4, 220, Sr.)
WR	23	Bryant Milligan (6-1, 197, Jr.)
WR	80	Courtney Edmonson (6-0, 187, Jr.)
WR	87	Tavaris Thompson (6-2, 198, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	96	Albert McClellan (6-2, 252, Sr.)
LDT	98	Delvin Johnson (6-3, 296, Jr.)
RDT	91	Johnny Jones (6-5, 288, Jr.)
RDE	90	Michael Janac (6-4, 278, Jr.)
SLB	30	Mario Harvey (6-0, 244, Sr.)
MLB	35	Kellen Harris (6-3, 223, So.)
WLB	8	Brandon Burns (6-4, 205, Sr.)
LCB	17	DeQuan Bembry (5-10, 173, So.)
RCB	13	T.J. Drakeford (5-11, 184, So.)
FS	31	Omar Brown (5-10, 178, So.)
SS	20	Ashton Hall (5-10, 193, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	92	Craig Ratanamorn (6-3, 187, Sr.)
P	41	Kase Whitehead (5-10, 181, So.)

Marshall hasn't had a winning season since entering C-USA in 2005.

Fifth-year coach Mark Snyder is looking for a turnaround this season, and may have his deepest squad since the program left the Mid-American Conference.

There is one important question entering 2008: Who will guide the Thundering Herd at quarterback? It's an answer that will carry Marshall's hopes a long way.

Last year's starter, Mark Cann, is coming off a rough season, and Brian Anderson looked good in the season finale against Tulsa. Mix in juco transfers Press Taylor and Jacob Laudenslayer, and there is serious competition to take snaps in the fall.

The new quarterback will work alongside tight end Cody Slate, an All-America candidate, and running back Darius Marshall (1,095 rushing yards).

Despite the loss of Darius Passmore, the Thundering Herd return several veterans in the receiving corps, including Courtney Edmonson and Bryant Milligan.

The Marshall defense has eight starters and seven of its top 10 tacklers back.

First-team All-C-USA end Albert McClellan returns to anchor a line that brings back four starters. Senior Mario Harvey, who had a team-high 107 tackles last season, leads the linebackers.

DeQuan Bembry and T.J. Drakeford return at cornerback, while Ashton Hall and Omar Brown will look to replace seniors C.J. Spillman and Aaron Johnson in the safety spots.

The depth of the defensive line will be a key to success, and Marshall is three-deep at all four positions.

Marshall's special teams return intact, with two kickers back in Craig Ratanamorn and Tyler Warner, and punter Kase Whitehead also returns ready to shine this fall.

UAB BLAZERS 6

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Rice	
S.12	SMU	

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 @TROY

A win over the Trojans would mean much more for the Blazers than the other way around. It would be a big confidence booster.

S.26	@TEXAS A&M	
O.1	Southern Miss	14-70
O.17	@OLE MISS	
O.24	@MARSHALL	23-21
O.31	@UTEP	
N.7	Florida Atlantic	34-49
N.14	@MEMPHIS	30-33
N.21	@EAST CAROLINA	13-17
N.28	UCF	15-0

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
C-USA: 3-5

Coach: Neil Callaway
3rd year (6-18)
Career record: 6-18
Offensive coordinator:
Kim Helton (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Eric Schumann (3rd year)

Stadium: Legion Field (72,000)
Tickets: 205-975-UAB1
Site: Birmingham, Ala.
Official athletic Web site:
www.uabsports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	5	Joe Webb (6-4, 220, Sr.)
RB	1	Rashaud Slaughter (5-9, 185, Sr.)
LOT	71	Matt McCants (6-7, 295, So.)
LOG	75	Daniel Seahorn (6-5, 295, Sr.)
C	53	Jake Seitz (6-2, 290, Sr.)
ROG	68	Adam Hollifield (6-3, 300, Jr.)
ROT	55	Terence Edge (6-3, 295, Jr.)
TE	84	Zach Lankford (6-4, 250, Sr.)
WR	11	Mario Wright (6-5, 205, Jr.)
WR	80	Mark Ferrell (6-2, 220, Sr.)
WR	7	Frantrell Forrest (6-2, 195, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	87	Bryant Turner (6-2, 260, Jr.)
LDT	97	D.J. Reese (6-4, 280, Jr.)
NT	50	David Decordova (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RDE	92	Anthony Barnes (6-3, 255, Sr.)
SLB	48	Drew Luker (6-3, 195, So.)
MLB	34	Daniel White (6-2, 220, Fr.)
WLB	13	Keon Harris (5-11, 205, Jr.)
CB	4	Brandon Carlisle (5-10, 185, Sr.)
CB	29	Terrell Springs (5-9, 175, So.)
FS	32	Hiram Atwater (6-0, 200, Jr.)
SS	31	Chase Daniel (6-3, 190, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	37	Trey Ragland (5-11, 175, So.)
P	37	Trey Ragland (5-11, 175, So.)

Third-year coach Neil Callaway faces a numbers crunch each year at UAB.

The Blazers had less than 68 scholarship players in the last two seasons, but that number will swell to the low 80s for 2009, which should finally level the playing field for UAB.

The Blazers took some beatings in 2008, finishing 4-8. But a strong three-week finish that included road wins at Tulane and UCF and a narrow 17-13 loss to eventual C-USA champion East Carolina gave the program hope.

"We can build off those games, but the bottom line is that we were 4-8 and that's not acceptable," Callaway says. "We have to make sure we get off to a good start and get better as we go along."

Any team success begins with quarterback Joe Webb, who had 21 touchdowns in '08.

"Joe is a tremendous athlete and a catalyst of our football team," Callaway says. "But he still has some work to do. When you look at our production, he was a big part of it from an offensive standpoint. But at the same time, he was learning (as a first-year starter)."

Webb will be joined by an offense that returns everyone, including a seasoned line that will try to open holes for running back Rashaud Slaughter.

Wide receivers Frantrell Forrest, Mark Ferrell and Mario Wright are expected to be Webb's top targets.

UAB's defense ranked 106th nationally but improved by the end of the season, allowing only 41 total points in its last three contests.

The Blazers will be led by ends Anthony Barnes and Bryant Turner, safety Chase Daniel and cornerbacks Terrell Springs and Brandon Carlisle.

"We've got depth and experience in the defensive line and at cornerback, but we're still unsure at the linebacker and safety spots," Callaway says. "We'll still be much improved over last year."

C-USA WEST PRESEASON RANK

1 HOUSTON COUGARS

There were plenty of reasons to celebrate coach Kevin Sumlin's first season at Houston.

The Cougars posted their first bowl victory in 28 years when they beat Air Force in the Armed Forces Bowl. Houston overcame a 1-3 start with seven wins in its last nine contests, including a 70-30 victory over rival Tulsa.

All that is great, but there is something missing—a C-USA championship.

"We have a lot we still want to accomplish," says Sumlin, who was awarded a new five-year contact at the end of last season. "I think we experienced some success, but obviously we didn't reach all of our goals last year. "Because of that, we have a lot of motivation."

The Cougars will be one of the favorites to win the conference this season because of their offensive firepower.

It starts with quarterback Case Keenum, a junior who was named the league's 2008 Offensive Player of the Year. Last season, Keenum threw for more than 300 yards in every game except the bowl contest and ended with 5,020 yards. He also tossed 44 touchdowns against only 11 interceptions.

There are plenty of weapons at Keenum's disposal, playmakers that will cause opposing defensive coordinators headaches all season long.

Bryce Beall broke the school's freshman rushing record and finished third in C-USA with 1,247 rushing yards last season.

Wideouts Tyron Carrier and Patrick Edwards also had outstanding rookie campaigns. Carrier, arguably C-USA's fastest wide receiver, led all of the nation's freshmen with 80 receptions. An NCAA provisional qualifier in track and field, Carrier also piled up 1,026 yards and nine touchdowns.

Edwards had 46 catches for 634 yards in just eight games before suffering a broken leg when his right shin hit a cart in the back of the end zone during the Marshall game.

Sumlin says Edwards went through non-contact drills during spring football, and his recovery was going ahead of schedule.

Chaz Rodriguez (40 receptions, 481 yards) also returns for Houston, while Beall caught 34 passes for 496 yards out of the backfield last season.

The offensive line is looking for new leaders after having an injury-plagued 2008. That may have been a blessing in disguise, Sumlin says, because it allowed backups to gain game experience. Look for Carl Barnett, Matt Hart and junior-college transfer Roy Watts to provide depth up front.

Graduation could take a toll on the Cougars' defense. The line lost four players, including 2008 C-USA Defensive Player of the Year Phillip Hunt.

The linebacker corps is solid, with leading tackler Marcus McGraw (103 stops) returning. Joining him are C.J. Cavness and Matt Nicholson.

Cornerback Brandon Brinkley (74 tackles, 4 INTs) will anchor the secondary.

Carson Blackmon had a solid spring at the other corner.

CASE KEENUM ▸ QB

THE NEXT BIG THING

ROY WATTS, OT

Offensive linemen rarely get noticed, but this junior-college transfer will be an important cog to keep Houston's high-powered offense rolling.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5 **C-USA:** 6-2
(beat Air Force in the Armed Forces Bowl, 34-28)

Coach: Kevin Sumlin
2nd year (8-5)
Career record: 8-5
Offensive coordinators:
Dana Holgrosen (2nd year)
Jason Phillips (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
John Skladany (2nd year)

Stadium: John O'Quinn Field at Robertson Stadium (32,000)
Tickets: 877-COUGAR-5
Site: Houston
Official athletic Web site:
uhcougars.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Northwestern State	
S.12	@OKLAHOMA STATE	37-56
S.26	Texas Tech	
0.3	@UTEP	42-37
0.10	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
0.17	@TULANE	42-14
0.24	SMU	44-38
0.31	Southern Miss	
N.7	@TULSA	70-30
N.14	@UCF	
N.21	Memphis	
N.28	Rice	42-56

GAME TO WATCH

S.26 Texas Tech

The scoreboard could get a workout, and Robertson Stadium should be rocking as an in-state Big 12 opponent comes to town.

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

▸▸ NEW ORLEANS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- High-powered offense means long weeks for opposing coordinators.
- Case Keenum's accuracy makes him a deadly quarterback, and he doesn't make mistakes.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	7	Case Keenum (6-1, 210, Jr.)
RB	25	Bryce Beall (5-11, 205, So.)
LOT	74	Roy Watts (6-6, 300, Fr.)
LOG	73	Jordan Shoemaker (6-3, 275, So.)
C	57	Carl Barnett (6-2, 285, Sr.)
ROG	70	Chris Thompson (6-2, 295, So.)
ROT	79	Matt Hart (6-6, 310, Sr.)
TE	8	Chris Gilbert (5-8, 170, Sr.)
WR	35	Tyron Carrier (5-8, 162, So.)
WR	82	Chaz Rodriguez (6-2, 185, Jr.)
WR	83	Patrick Edwards (5-9, 175, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	43	Tyrell Graham (6-3, 225, Sr.)
NT	97	Isaiah Thompson (6-4, 295, So.)
DT	54	Nicholas Thurston (6-1, 255, Sr.)
RDE	99	Michael Ray (6-3, 250, So.)
SLB	30	Matt Nicholson (6-3, 225, Sr.)
MLB	55	Marcus McGraw (5-11, 220, So.)
WLB	40	C.J. Cavness (6-1, 220, Sr.)
LCB	21	Brandon Brinkley (6-0, 180, Sr.)
RCB	22	Loyce Means (5-10, 175, Jr.)
FS		Jacky Candy (5-11, 205, Jr.)
SS	23	Carson Blackmon (5-11, 185, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	16	Jordan Mannisto (6-1, 175, So.)
P	80	Chase Turner (6-4, 229, Sr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Roy Watts
OT, 6-6, 300
Watts was a steal for Houston, as he was one of the most highly sought-after junior-college linemen in the nation.

2 Jacky Candy
CB, 5-11, 195
Candy has the look of a safety or linebacker because of his physically imposing frame.

3 A.J. Dugat
WR, 6-0, 203
Dugat had a masterful close to his high school career, making 112 catches for 1,755 yards and 21 touchdowns.

4 Rademon Scypion
DE, 6-4, 213
Scypion has all the physical tools you want in a defensive end and should be a star in C-USA.

5 George Bamfo
LB, 5-11, 200
Bamfo's stock skyrocketed once his senior film began to be distributed. The Cougars pulled in a good one here.

WILF THORNE

TULSA GOLDEN HURRICANE 2

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.4	@TULANE	56-7
S.12	@NEW MEXICO	56-14
S.19	@OKLAHOMA	
S.26	Sam Houston State	
0.3	@RICE	63-28
GAME TO WATCH		
0.14	**Boise State**	
These former WAC foes meet in a battle between two of the top non-BCS schools over the past two seasons.		
0.21	@UTEP	77-35
0.31	SMU	37-31
N.7	Houston	30-70
N.15	East Carolina	24-27
N.21	@SOUTHERN MISS	
N.28	Memphis	

BOWL PROJECTION
» LIBERTY BOWL
MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» The team loses co-offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn and will introduce its third starting quarterback in as many seasons.
» The defense, which needs improvement, is being labeled as a "blue-collar" unit.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Jacob Bower (6-3, 242, Jr.)
RB	23	Jamad Williams (5-9, 212, Jr.)
LOT	78	Tyler Holmes (6-3, 306, So.)
LOG	76	Curt Puckett (6-4, 309, Sr.)
C	72	Clint Anderson (6-2, 272, So.)
ROG	60	Nick Gates (6-2, 270, Jr.)
ROT	75	Brandon Thomas (6-5, 274, So.)
TE	86	Jake Collums (6-4, 242, Sr.)
WR	88	Slick Shelley (6-4, 200, Sr.)
FL	3	Damaris Johnson (5-8, 170, So.)
SE	1	Trae Johnson (5-11, 180, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	93	Cory Dorris (6-4, 255, Fr.)
NT	96	Wilson Garrison (6-4, 283, Sr.)
RDE	80	Odrick Ray (6-3, 261, Jr.)
SLB	8	George Clinkscale (6-0, 238, Sr.)
MLB	43	Mike Bryan (6-3, 226, Sr.)
WLB	40	Tanner Antle (6-4, 225, Jr.)
BAN	5	DeAundre Brown (5-11, 195, So.)
CB	18	Jon Destin (6-0, 195, Sr.)
CB	27	Kenny D. Sims (5-11, 197, Sr.)
FS	24	Charles Davis (5-9, 180, Sr.)
SPUR	6	James Lockett (5-11, 203, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	30	Matt Hulse (5-11, 188, So.)
P	35	Michael Such (6-2, 198, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 11-3
C-USA: 7-1
(beat Ball State in the GMAC Bowl, 45-13)

Coach: Todd Graham
3rd year (21-7)
Career record: 28-13
Offensive coordinator:
Herb Hand (3rd year)
Defensive coordinators:
Keith Patterson (4th year)
Ron West (1st year)

Stadium: Skelly Field at H.A. Chapman Stadium (35,542)
Tickets: 918-613-GOTU
Site: Tulsa, Okla.
Official athletic Web site:
www.tulsahurricane.com

J.P. WILSON / ICON SMI

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Tulsa began the new millennium as a college football lightweight with one win in the 2001 and '02 seasons etched on its résumé.

It'll leave this decade as one of the non-BCS powers striving for league and bowl championships.

Tulsa has won 21 games in the past two years, including a school-record 11-win campaign in 2008. During that magical season, the Golden Hurricane won their first eight games and plunged into the Top 25 of the national polls and BCS rankings.

A 3-3 finish to the season, including a home loss in the C-USA Championship Game to East Carolina, has left a bitter taste in the program's mouth.

"We have to build on our 11-3 mark," third-year coach Todd Graham says. "Our goals are to get better fundamentally, mentally and get physically tougher. We want to win the Conference USA championship"

Tulsa's foundation has been its offense. The Hurricane led the nation in total offense during each of the past two seasons. Last year, they averaged 569.9 yards a contest, while scoring 47.2 points a game to rank second nationally.

The team's bread and butter will enter 2009 with a different look. Co-offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn, who shared duties with assistant Herb Hand, has left for Auburn.

Despite the loss, Graham promises no changes in Tulsa's offensive philosophy.

Tulsa will introduce its third starting quarterback in as many seasons. Junior Jacob Bower played sparingly in all 14 games last season, and will compete with Texas transfer G.J. Kinne and high school phenom Shavodrick Beaver.

The Hurricane also need to replace running back Tarrion Adams, the school's career rushing leader. Though Jamad Williams is the front-runner, Charles Clay, who spent his first two seasons at fullback, will get a chance to win the job.

Tulsa's no-huddle spread attack gets the football into the hands of many different wide receivers.

The Hurricane will return three players who had at least eight TDs in 2009—Damaris Johnson, Slick Shelley and Clay. Other receivers to watch include Trae Johnson, A.J. Whitmore and Jesse Meyer.

Graham has called his defense a "blue-collar" unit, and he expects better production out of a group that includes 13 seniors. The team made steady improvement last year, but Graham wants a championship-style defense.

"We're going to be faster and stronger than we've ever been," Graham says. "We want to be the No. 1 total defense in the conference and No. 1 scoring defense in the conference. To win a championship, you have to win it on defense."

Tulsa has to replace end Moton Hopkins and nose tackle Terrel Nemons on the defensive line, but look for Odrick Ray and Wilson Garrison, to fill those respective voids.

Mike Bryan, Tanner Antle and George Clinkscale all return at linebacker. Bryan is a workhorse and had 119 tackles in 2008.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Shavodrick Beaver
QB, 6-2, 179
Beaver, a former Michigan commitment, was one of the most highly recruited players in the country.

2 — Brian DeShane
G, 6-3, 290
DeShane committed in January of his junior year and stuck to his word despite overtures from Big 12 schools.

3 — Anthony Foster
WR, 5-8, 170
Foster may play wide receiver or cornerback, and his instincts could make him the biggest playmaker in this class.

4 — Ricky Johnson
WR, 6-2, 190
In high school, Johnson played all over, including quarterback. In college, he'll project as a wide receiver.

5 — LaQuentin Black
CB, 5-9, 175
This junior-college transfer is a playmaker. During his senior year in high school, Black had 11 interceptions.

THE NEXT BIG THING

ALEX SINGLETON, RB

The true freshman from LaPlace, La., could contribute immediately at running back. He chose Tulsa over LSU.

3 UTEP MINERS

There isn't a secret formula of what UTEP needs to improve on the most in 2009.

The Miners must get better on defense if they want to compete for a Conference USA championship.

UTEP gave up 42 or more points in six of its seven losses last season, including 77 at Tulsa and 53 at East Carolina.

Sixth-year coach Mike Price said last year was an unexpected learning process for the squad, which installed a new defensive scheme and coaches.

"The players had to learn the defense and the new coaches had to learn who the players were," Price says. "Now the players know the defense and the coaches know the players better. We're looking forward [to the season]."

The Miners are hopeful for the return of safety Braxton Amy, who missed last year with a torn ACL. In 2007, he led the team with 112 tackles.

Others to watch include safety Da'Mon Cromartie-Smith and defensive end Robert Soleyjacks.

The offense will be anchored by junior quarterback Trevor Vittatoe, who has put up outstanding numbers in El Paso. Vittatoe, who played with torn ankle ligaments for much of last season, tossed a school-record 33 touchdowns. During his two-year career, he has thrown for 58 touchdowns against only 16 interceptions.

UTEP returns productive wide receivers in Jeff Moturi and Kris Adams. The pair combined for 23 touchdown grabs in 2008.

A running back needs to emerge. Many different players will get opportunities to grab the notice of coaches during fall camp, including Jason Williams, Donald Buckram, Vernon Frazier and Leilyon Myers.

Price wants to return the Miners to their first postseason appearance since the 2005 GMAC Bowl. It won't be easy.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Buffalo	17-42

GAME TO WATCH

S.12 Kansas

The Miners have an opportunity to capture a marquee victory in Week 2 when the Jayhawks visit the Sun Bowl.

S.19	@NEW MEXICO STATE	33-34
S.26	@TEXAS	13-42
0.3	Houston	37-42
0.10	@MEMPHIS	
0.21	Tulsa	35-77
0.31	UAB	
N.7	@TULANE	24-21
N.14	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	36-10
N.21	@RICE	44-49
N.28	Marshall	

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
C-USA: 4-4

Coach: Mike Price
6th year (30-30)
Career record: 159-152
Offensive coordinators:
Bob Connelly (2nd year) and Aaron Price (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Osia Lewis (2nd year)

Stadium: Sun Bowl (51,500)
Tickets: 915-747-6150
Site: El Paso, Texas
Official athletic Web site:
www.utepathletics.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Trevor Vittatoe (6-2, 220, Jr.)
TB	3	Donald Buckram (5-10, 190, Jr.)
LOT	71	Mike Aguayo (6-4, 300, Sr.)
LOG	78	Cameron Raschke (6-4, 320, Sr.)
C	79	Tanner Cullumber (6-4, 280, Jr.)
ROG	74	Rod Huntley (6-3, 315, Jr.)
ROT	54	Will Osolinsky (6-8, 280, Jr.)
TE	86	Jonny Moore (6-5, 250, Jr.)
WR	6	Jeff Moturi (6-0, 190, Sr.)
WR	9	Tufick Shadrawy (6-2, 195, Sr.)
WR	2	Kris Adams (6-3, 195, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	96	Aaron King (6-4, 250, Sr.)
NT	95	Steve Riddick (5-11, 275, Sr.)
RDE	13	Robert Soleyjacks (6-5, 250, Jr.)
LLB	42	Greg Holleman (6-0, 215, So.)
MLB	17	Brian Wilkins (6-2, 245, Sr.)
RLB	52	Royzell Smith (6-1, 215, So.)
MNR	1	Clarence Ward (6-0, 190, Sr.)
LCB	4	Melvin Stephenson (5-10, 185, Sr.)
RCB	47	Cornelius Brown (6-0, 200, Sr.)
LS	14	Braxton Amy (6-0, 210, Jr.)
RS	23	Da'Mon Cromartie-Smith (6-2, 210, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	22	Logan Barrett (6-1, 175, Fr.)
P	98	Greg Hiett (6-5, 225, Sr.)

4 SMU MUSTANGS

June Jones knew SMU's rebuilding project was not going to be an overnight success.

After guiding Hawaii to a BCS bowl in 2007, SMU went 1-11 last year, and the program has lost 21 of its last 22 games.

Jones still found reason for optimism. Four of the team's eight C-USA losses were by seven points or less. Meanwhile, valuable experience was gained by the younger players.

For those reasons, the veteran coach hasn't lowered his team's goals.

"We're still building what we need to build," Jones says. "Offensively, I saw a lot of improvement at running back and quarterback. Defensively, we're still trying to find our identity."

Quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell went from boy to man in a matter of months. The freshman threw for 24 touchdowns and 2,865 yards, but also had 23 interceptions in Jones' run-and-shoot offense.

"He showed a lot of improvement after having lived through that," Jones says.

Mitchell will have two good receivers to throw the ball to this season. Aldrick Robinson tied a school record with 11 touchdowns, while Emmanuel Sanders had six 100-yard receiving games. Zach Zimmerman will also be a factor.

The run game averaged 41.4 yards per contest in '08, and needs improvement to bring balance to the passing attack.

The defense will depend on a 3-4 scheme, using athleticism at linebacker to offset a lack of bodies on the line.

"We're going to get a little more speed on the field," Jones says. "The hardest thing to find when replenishing is defensive linemen. We found some good, young linebackers that can run."

SMU allowed 479.5 yards per contest last season, which ranked 118th nationally.

Pete Fleps had a team-high 106 stops in '08, while Justin Smart registered 74.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Stephen F. Austin	
S.12	@UAB	
S.19	@WASHINGTON STATE	
0.3	@TCU	7-48
0.10	East Carolina	

GAME TO WATCH

0.17 Navy 7-34

The Mustangs were embarrassed in a 34-7 loss at Navy last season, when wicked weather drowned the run-and-shoot offense. SMU will be looking for revenge.

0.24	@HOUSTON	38-44
0.31	@TULSA	31-37
N.7	Rice	27-56
N.14	UTEP	10-36
N.21	@MARSHALL	
N.28	Tulane	27-34

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 1-11
C-USA: 0-8

Coach: June Jones
2nd year (1-11)
Career record: 77-52
Offensive coordinator:
Dan Morrison (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Tom Mason (2nd year)

Stadium: Gerald J. Ford Stadium (32,000)
Tickets: 214-SMU-GAME
Site: Dallas
Official athletic Web site:
www.smumustangs.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	16	Bo Levi Mitchell (6-1, 201, Jr.)
RB	8	DeMyron Martin (6-2, 230, Sr.)
LOT	70	Kelvin Beachum (6-3, 270, Fr.)
LOG	74	Sean Lobo (6-3, 295, Sr.)
C	51	Mitch Enright (6-2, 275, Sr.)
ROG	68	Bryce Tennison (6-3, 298, Fr.)
ROT	67	Tommy Poynter (6-4, 275, So.)
WR	32	Josh Bryant (5-7, 170, Jr.)
WR	17	Emmanuel Sanders (6-1, 165, Jr.)
WR	5	Zach Zimmerman (6-1, 165, Jr.)
WR	24	Aldrick Robinson (5-10, 170, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	42	Anthony Sowe (6-2, 215, Jr.)
NT	99	Serge Elizee (6-1, 300, Sr.)
DT	94	Patrick Handy (6-2, 250, Sr.)
RDE	48	Youri Yenga (6-2, 220, So.)
SLB	27	Will Bonilla (5-11, 205, Sr.)
MLB	40	Justin Smart (6-4, 225, Jr.)
WLB	52	Pete Fleps (6-2, 220 Jr.)
LCB	12	Derrius Bell (5-10, 165, So.)
RCB	6	Bryan McCann (6-0, 175, Jr.)
FS	41	Tyler Jones (6-1, 195, Jr.)
SS	10	Rock Dennis (5-10, 175, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	15	Thomas Morstead (6-5, 215, Sr.)
P	15	Thomas Morstead (6-5, 215, Sr.)

RICE OWLS 5

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@UAB	
S.12	@TEXAS TECH	
S.19	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.26	Vanderbilt	21-38
This battle of private schools means a lot for the Owls and Conference USA, who both could use a victory against an SEC school.		
0.3	Tulsa	28-63
0.10	Navy	
0.17	@EAST CAROLINA	
0.24	UCF	
N.7	@SMU	56-27
N.14	Tulane	42-17
N.21	UTEP	49-44
N.28	@HOUSTON	56-42

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 10-3
C-USA: 7-1
(beat Western Michigan in the Texas Bowl, 38-14)

Coach: Dave Bailiff
3rd year (13-12)
Career record: 13-12
Offensive coordinator:
Ed Zaunbrecher (1st year)
Defensive coordinators:
Chuck Driesbach (3rd year),
Craig Naivar (3rd year)

Stadium: Rice Stadium (70,000)
Tickets: 713-522-OWLS
Site: Houston
Official athletic Web site:
www.riceowls.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	17	John Thomas Shepherd (6-1, 195, Jr.)
RB	37	Tyler Smith (5-8, 190, So.)
LOT	56	Scott Mitchell (6-4, 290, Jr.)
LOG	66	Jake Hicks (6-3, 265, So.)
C	58	Keshawn Carrington (6-3, 265, So.)
ROG	71	Davon Allen (6-2, 322, So.)
ROT	64	Tyler Parish (6-4, 280, So.)
WR	80	Corbin Smiter (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	3	Toren Dixon (6-2, 212, Sr.)
WR	84	Taylor Wardlow (6-6, 236, Sr.)
WR	6	Patrick Randolph (5-11, 170, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	13	Scott Solomon (6-3, 263, Jr.)
DT	89	Chance Talbert (6-5, 283, Sr.)
NG	55	John Gioffre (6-0, 293, So.)
RDE	95	Cheta Ozougwu (6-2, 250, Jr.)
SLB	45	Tanner Shuck (5-11, 210, So.)
WLB	34	Terrance Garmon (6-2, 220, Sr.)
FCB	1	Jarrett Ben (5-10, 171, So.)
BCB	38	Chris Jammer (6-1, 186, So.)
ROV	35	Travis Bradshaw (6-1, 200, So.)
FS	30	Andrew Sendejo (6-1, 210, Sr.)
SS	44	Chris Jones (6-3, 200, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	46	Clark Fangmeier (5-11, 190, Sr.)
P	41	Kyle Martens (6-6, 190, So.)

Rice captured the attention of C-USA in 2008 with a school-record 10 wins—one shy of advancing to the conference title game.

David Bailiff was named the league's Coach of the Year after engineering the biggest turnaround in college football last season, increasing his team's win total by seven.

"That's what we want to do, continue building momentum for our football program," Bailiff says. "Winning seven games in a row [to end last season] helps that momentum and makes everything better."

But a rebuilding project is needed at the Houston school. Rice must replace both its passing attack and running game in 2009. The Owls also introduce new offensive coordinator Ed Zaunbrecher.

Replacing quarterback Chase Clement, wide receiver Jarett Dillard and tight end James Casey will be a priority.

However, Bailiff won't name a starting quarterback until fall. Nick Fanuzzi, a transfer from Alabama, threw six balls for 136 yards and three TDs in the spring game. He'll battle freshman Ryan Lewis and senior John Thomas Shepherd.

Wide receiver Toren Dixon will try to ease the loss of Dillard and Casey. Corbin Smiter likely will see more passes thrown his way as well.

The Owls' defense returns its top nine tacklers from '08, including safeties Andrew Sendejo (team-high 94 tackles) and Travis Bradshaw (89).

Rice ended last year with seven straight victories, including a Texas Bowl win, but its dream for a league championship remains intact.

"To get that close feeds that hunger," Bailiff says. "There's no complacency here. We want to achieve the ultimate goal, which is get to the Liberty Bowl."

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» ARMED FORCES BOWL

TULANE GREEN WAVE 6

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.4	Tulsa	7-56
Tulane hasn't competed with Tulsa since 2005, but the season opener may be the best time since the Golden Hurricane will be breaking in a new quarterback and different players on defense.		
S.12	Brigham Young	
S.26	McNeese State	
0.3	@ARMY	13-44
0.10	Marshall	
0.17	Houston	14-42
0.24	@SOUTHERN MISS	
0.31	@LSU	10-35
N.7	UTEP	21-24
N.14	@RICE	17-42
N.21	@UCF	
N.28	@SMU	34-27

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 2-10
C-USA: 1-7

Coach: Bob Toledo
3rd year (6-18)
Career record: 55-50 (FBS)
Offensive coordinator:
Dan Dodd (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Steve Stanard (1st year)

Stadium: Louisiana Superdome (69,703)
Tickets: 504-861-WAVE
Site: New Orleans
Official athletic Web site:
www.tulanegreenwave.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	2	Kevin Moore (6-5, 234, Jr.)
TB	32	Andre Anderson (6-0, 211, Sr.)
FB	35	Jordan Stephany (6-0, 243, Fr.)
LOG	65	Michael Parenton (6-2, 295, So.)
ROG	75	Tyler Rice (6-4, 260, Sr.)
C	68	Andrew Nierman (6-1, 294, Jr.)
LOT	78	Troy Kropog (6-6, 292, So.)
ROT	78	Nick Landry (6-7, 295, Sr.)
TE	80	Justin Kessler (6-4, 260, Sr.)
WR	83	Brian King (6-1, 190, Sr.)
WR	20	Jeremy Williams (6-1, 201, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	90	Adam Kwentua (6-3, 259, Jr.)
LDT	96	Tony Bryant (6-3, 256, Jr.)
NT	95	Justin Adams (5-11, 260, Jr.)
RDE	92	Reggie Scott (6-4, 258, Sr.)
SLB	33	David Skehan (6-0, 222, Jr.)
MLB	55	David Kirksey (6-1, 225, Sr.)
WLB	6	Travis Burks (6-0, 208, Jr.)
CB	13	Phillip Davis (5-10, 172, Fr.)
CB	12	Josh Lumar (5-10, 176, So.)
S	38	Corey Sonnier (5-10, 195, Sr.)
S	24	Chinonso Echebelem (6-1, 208, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	40	Darren deRochemont (5-9, 192, Fr.)
P	47	Ross Thevenot (6-0, 186, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

Tulane's start to its schedule isn't what most coaches would like to envision.

The Green Wave open with a C-USA game against Tulsa and a nonconference contest with BYU. It's a rough start for a Tulane program that dropped its last eight games during an injury-plagued 2008.

"We're trying to build a program and a lot of people want instant success," says Tulane coach Bob Toledo, noting that 22 freshmen saw action last year. "Sometimes, that's where injuries take place. Hopefully, we're coming to a point where we're developing the program."

Winning games is made easier by scoring points, and that's Tulane's emphasis in '09.

The team scored more than 24 points in only one game last season, averaging 16.7 a contest.

Quarterback Kevin Moore started every game, but also shared time with Joe Kemp. Both are competing for the starter's role this year, along with redshirt freshmen Ryan Griffin and D.J. Ponder.

The new signal-caller will have a quality running back in Andre Anderson. The senior ranked first among C-USA backs in rushing (123.4) and all-purpose yards (175.7) per game before injuring his shoulder late last season.

Senior Jeremy Williams (113 career catches, 12 TDs) will be the top wide-receiver target.

New defensive coordinator Steve Stanard will try to improve a unit that gave up 35 or more points in its final six games last season.

He received good news when defensive end Reggie Scott was awarded a sixth year of eligibility from the NCAA. The senior will team with left end Adam Kwentua to anchor the defensive line.

Safety Corey Sonnier had a team-high 86 stops last season, while David Kirksey (41) is expected to lead the linebackers.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

PAC-10

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1 USC
2 Oregon
3 California
4 Oregon State
5 UCLA
6 Arizona State
7 Stanford
8 Arizona
9 Washington
10 Washington State

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Jamere Holland, Oregon

Best Hands
Chris McGaha, WR, Arizona State

Best Passing QB
Aaron Corp, USC

Best Running QB
Jeremiah Masoli, Oregon

Most Elusive RB
Jacquizz Rodgers, Oregon State

Best Instincts
Taylor Mays, S, USC

Best Athlete
Taylor Mays, S, USC

Best Under Pressure
Jeremiah Masoli, QB, Oregon

Top NFL Prospect
Taylor Mays, S, USC

Top Impact Freshman
Vontaze Burfict, LB, Arizona State

Hardest Hitter
Taylor Mays, S, USC

Biggest Underachiever
Joe McKnight, RB, USC

Best Home-Field Advantage
Oregon

Best Fans
Oregon State

Best Mascot
Washington's Husky

Best Stadium
Rose Bowl, UCLA

League race will be determined by a number of untested quarterbacks

By **JON WILNER,** *San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News*

Given the Pac-10's history of aerial innovation and nonpareil production of NFL quarterbacks, any assessment of the league must begin by looking at the state of its quarterbacking. And this season, that state is chaotic.

Only two teams enter training camp knowing who will be under center in the season opener.

Washington is set with junior Jake Locker, who has recovered from the broken thumb that cut short his '08 season. And Oregon has Jeremiah Masoli to operate its spread option. But that's it.

There's a duel in the desert as Matt Scott and Nick Foles compete for the Arizona job.

Danny Sullivan is expected to take over for Rudy Carpenter at Arizona State, but he has just 87 passes on his résumé.

At some point before fall, USC will select either Aaron Corp or Matt Barkley to replace Mark Sanchez.

UCLA has several players vying for the starting spot and no guarantee any of them will lead the Bruins to better days.

Stanford has two options but neither is comforting to Cardinal fans between a mediocre senior and talented freshman.

California must choose between Kevin Riley and Brock Mansion. But who can get the job done is anyone's guess.

Oregon State would be set with Lyle Moevao, except he's coming off shoulder surgery, which means '08 reserve Sean Canfield could start.

And then there's Washington State, where last year's three-game starter Marshall Lobbestael was suspended after being arrested for possession of alcohol by a minor. That may leave unsteady senior Kevin Lopina to lead the charge.

Amid all this chaos, the league race is as difficult to project.

USC is again the team to beat but hardly looks unbeatable. California and Oregon should finish near the top, and the Washington schools near the bottom. Everyone else makes up the muddled middle, where one game—and decent quarterback play—could separate four or five teams.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

1. USC Another elite class for the Trojans. USC again secures the best group in the Pac-10, including QB Matt Barkley.
2. UCLA There's more talent heading to Westwood this season than in the past, and the switch of Randall Carroll from USC to UCLA helped.
3. STANFORD Jim Harbaugh reeled in Stanford's first top-25 class since 2003. The Cardinal signed eight four-star players and 12 three-star recruits.
4. ARIZONA STATE ASU did a nice job in its own back yard. Linebacker Vontaze Burfict was a huge get for the Sun Devils.
5. OREGON Oregon finished second for many top prospects, but in the end it still will go down as a good all-around effort for the Ducks.
6. CALIFORNIA Cal got some solid recruits in four-star lineman Deandre Coleman, four-star linebacker Jarred Price and four-star quarterback Allan Bridgford.
7. ARIZONA While this class didn't crack the upper portion of the Pac-10, it's still one of Mike Stoops' best all-around efforts.
8. OREGON STATE There are five versatile athletes in this group, and several of the quarterbacks recruited could end up playing other positions.
9. WASHINGTON The dismal season on the field made it tough to land recruits, but Steve Sarkisian's energy attracted a lot of attention from top prospects late.
10. WASHINGTON STATE The Cougars sit at the bottom of the Pac-10 recruiting rankings for the third consecutive year.

ALL-PAC-10

OFFENSE

QB Jake Locker, Jr., Washington
RB Jahvid Best, Jr., California
RB Jacquizz Rodgers, So., Oregon State
OL Jeff Byers, Sr., USC
OL Mitchell Schwartz, So., California
OL Kristofer O'Dowd, Jr., USC
OL Charles Brown, Sr., USC
OL Chris Marinelli, Sr., Stanford
TE Rob Gronkowski, Jr., Arizona
WR Damian Williams, Jr., USC
WR James Rodgers, Jr., Oregon State

DEFENSE

DL Tyson Alualu, Sr., California
DL Brian Price, Jr., UCLA
DL Will Tukuafu, Sr., Oregon
DL Dexter Davis, Sr., Arizona State
LB Reggie Carter, Sr., UCLA
LB Keaton Kristick, Sr., Oregon State
LB Michael Mohamed, Jr., California
DB Syd'Quan Thompson, Sr., California
DB Taylor Mays, Sr., USC
DB Devin Ross, Sr., Arizona
DB Walter Thurmond, Sr., Oregon

SPECIALISTS

K Kai Forbath, Jr., UCLA
P Bryan Anger, So., California

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 The Pac-10 will have a major officiating controversy. It seems that every year a decision made on the field or in the replay booth results in the league being mocked from coast to coast.

2 Washington's 14-game losing streak will end. With a new coach, healthy Jake Locker and an easier schedule, the Huskies will finally break through—probably in the team's second game against Idaho.

3 Arizona will lose a game it shouldn't. The Wildcats are 0-4 the past two years against Stanford and New Mexico. Best bets for a head-scratching loss in '09 are Central Michigan and Washington.

4 Jahvid Best will score on a 90-yard run. California's fast tailback had three runs of 80 yards or more in '08. But the league record for longest run (98 yards) will probably survive.

ASCENDING

UCLA Two stellar recruiting classes, a loaded defense and Norm Chow's ability to coach quarterbacks should propel the Bruins to a better conference ranking and, perhaps, into a bowl game.

DESCENDING

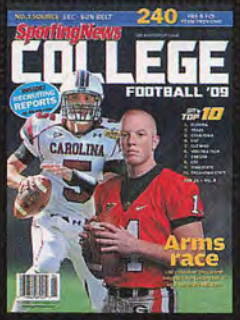
OREGON STATE The Beavers should finish in the top half of the conference with Jacquizz and James Rodgers back. But they lose too much on defense to compete for the title.

ORDER YOUR FAVORITE COVER NOW!

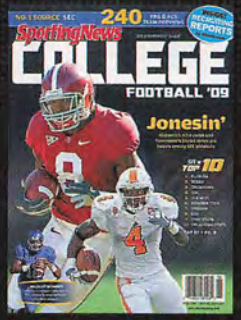
NORTHEAST
Cover: Anthony Davis, OT, Rutgers
Inset: Mike Williams, WR, Syracuse

NORTH ATLANTIC
Cover: Daryll Clark, QB, Penn State
Inset: Noel Devine, RB, WVU

SOUTH ATLANTIC
Cover: Tyrod Taylor, QB, Virginia Tech & Russell Wilson, QB, N.C. State
Inset: Marvin Austin, DT, North Carolina



SOUTHEAST
Cover: Joe Cox, QB, Georgia & Stephen Garcia, QB, South Carolina



SOUTH
Cover: Julio Jones, WR, Alabama & Gerald Jones, WR, Tennessee
Inset: Randall Cobb, QB/WR, Kentucky

DEEP SOUTH
Cover: Jevan Snead, QB, Ole Miss & Ryan Mallett, QB, Arkansas
Inset: Charles Scott, RB, LSU

FLORIDA
Cover: Tim Tebow, QB, Florida
Insets: George Selvie, DE, South Florida & Sean Spence, LB, Miami

TEXAS
Cover: Colt McCoy, QB, Texas & Jordan Shipley, WR, Texas
Inset: Robert Griffin, QB, Baylor

MIDEAST
Cover: Jimmy Clausen, QB, Notre Dame
Inset: Arrelious Benn, WR, Illinois

OHIO
Cover: Terrelle Pryor, QB, Ohio State
Inset: Mardy Gilyard, WR, Cincinnati

MIDWEST
Cover: Brandon Graham, DE, Michigan & Garrett Graham, TE, Wisconsin
Inset: Adam Weber, QB, Minnesota

MIDLANDS
Cover: Roy Helu, RB, Nebraska
Inset: Ricky Stanzi, QB, Iowa

PLAINS
Cover: Todd Reesing, QB, Kansas, Cody Hawkins, QB, Colorado & Sam Bradford, QB, Oklahoma

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Cover: LeGarrette Blount, RB, Oregon & Jahvid Best, RB, California
Inset: Kellen Moore, QB, Boise State

REGION NAME
Cover: Dexter Davis, DE, Arizona State, Stevenson Sylvester, LB, Utah & Clint McPeek, S, New Mexico

REGION NAME
Cover: Taylor Mays, S, USC
Inset: Logan Paulsen, TE, UCLA

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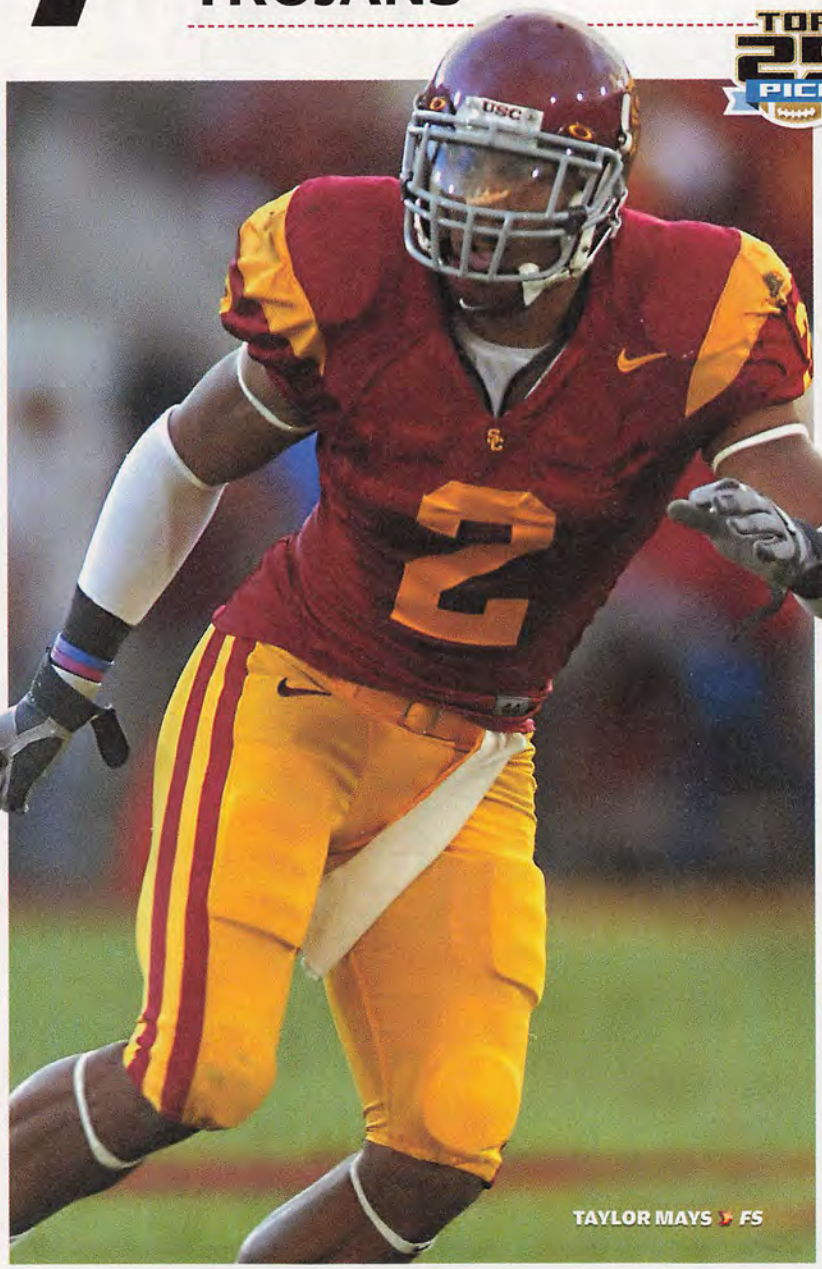
PAC-10 PRESEASON RANK

1 USC TROJANS



TAYLOR MAYS » FS

TOP 25 PICK

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	San Jose State	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.12	**@OHIO STATE**	**35-3**
A rematch of USC's romp last year should tell fans which storied program will be in the BCS title hunt.		
S.19	@WASHINGTON	56-0
S.26	Washington State	69-0
O.3	@CALIFORNIA	17-3
O.17	@NOTRE DAME	38-3
O.24	Oregon State	21-27
O.31	@OREGON	44-10
N.7	@ARIZONA STATE	28-0
N.14	Stanford	45-23
N.28	UCLA	28-7
D.5	Arizona	17-10

BOWL PROJECTION
» ROSE BOWL

BCS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Trojans sport a veteran line and fantastic skill-position players.
- Must replace eight defensive starters.

Pete Carroll ought to hang a banner outside the USC football office that says in big cardinal-and-gold letters: "Come and get us."

That would be all that needs saying about the current state of USC football—Carroll's insatiable competitiveness, the Trojans' era of dominance and their apparent vulnerability this season.

Not since Carroll's first year in Heritage Hall (2001) have the Trojans had as many questions as they do in '09, with a new quarterback and rebuilt defense. If their amazing streaks are ever going to end—seven consecutive BCS appearances, Pac-10 titles and 11-win seasons—they will this year.

"Every season presents new and different challenges, as is certainly the case this year," Carroll says. "But we do have the ingredients to have another very good team."

Very good? Perhaps. Great? Seems unlikely.

The problem Carroll faces is the combination of a rookie quarterback, a new offensive coordinator and only three returning starters on defense. In other words, major questions on both sides of the ball. If it were just the defense, or only the offense, then the Trojans would be in much better shape.

Their fate depends largely on the quarterback play. The projected starter entering training camp is sophomore Aaron Corp, although freshman Matt Barkley played well enough in April to make the situation interesting. Bringing up the third spot is former top recruit and Arkansas transfer Mitch Mustain.

Southern Cal returns five starters up front and should have one of the best offensive lines in the country. Kristofer O'Dowd is an All-America candidate at center, while senior Jeff Byers (granted a sixth year by the NCAA) and Charles Brown figure to provide Corp or Barkley with first-rate protection.

The quarterbacks will have a solid set of receivers at their disposal, beginning with all-conference junior

KIRBY LEE / US PRESSWIRE

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Mitch Mustain

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
6	167.43	16-11-2	68.8	157	2	26.2

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Stafon Johnson	13	138	705	5.1	9	54.2

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Damian Williams	13	58	869	15.0	9	66.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Taylor Mays	13	38	15	53

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Everson Griffen	12	4.5	39

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Drew McAllister	3	37	12.3	0
Kevin Thomas	3	53	17.7	1

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 12-1
Pac-10: 8-1
(beat Penn State in the Rose Bowl, 38-24)

Coach: Pete Carroll
9th year (88-15)
Career record: 88-15
Offensive coordinator:
John Morton (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Rocky Seto (1st year)

Stadium: Los Angeles Memorial Stadium (92,000)
Tickets: 213-740-GOSC
Site: Los Angeles
Official athletic Web site:
www.usctrojans.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Aaron Corp (6-4, 195, So.)
	7	Matt Barkley (6-3, 220, Fr.)
FB	31	Stanley Havili (6-0, 225, Jr.)
	45	Adam Goodman (6-1, 240, Sr.)
RB	2	C.J. Gable (6-0, 200, Jr.)
	13	Stafon Johnson (5-11, 215, Sr.)
LOT	71	Charles Brown (6-6, 295, Sr.)
	70	Tyron Smith (6-6, 270, So.)
LOG	53	Jeff Byers (6-4, 285, Sr.)
	56	Alex Parsons (6-4, 300, Sr.)
C	61	Kristofer O'Dowd (6-5, 300, Jr.)
	56	Alex Parsons (6-4, 300, Sr.)
ROG	74	Zack Heberer (6-5, 300, Jr.)
	90	Derek Simmons (6-4, 285, Jr.)
ROT	68	Butch Lewis (6-5, 300, Jr.)
	76	Nick Howell (6-5, 280, Sr.)
TE	86	Anthony McCoy (6-5, 255, Sr.)
	40	Rhett Ellison (6-5, 250, So.)
WR	18	Damian Williams (6-1, 190, Jr.)
	9	David Ausberry (6-4, 235, So.)
WR	8	Ronald Johnson (6-1, 185, Jr.)
	17	Travon Patterson (5-10, 175, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	97	Malik Jackson (6-5, 230, So.)
	96	Wes Horton (6-5, 245, Fr.)
LDT	44	Christian Tupou (6-2, 280, Jr.)
	91	Jurrell Casey (6-1, 280, So.)
RDT	99	Averell Spicer (6-2, 295, Sr.)
	94	Armond Armstead (6-5, 290, So.)
RDE	93	Everson Griffen (6-3, 265, Jr.)
	8	Nick Perry (6-3, 240, Fr.)
SLB	17	Michael Morgan (6-4, 220, Jr.)
	57	Nick Garratt (6-1, 235, Sr.)
MLB	54	Chris Galippo (6-2, 255, So.)
	52	Luthur Brown (6-2, 235, Sr.)
WLB	6	Malcolm Smith (6-1, 225, Jr.)
	37	Jordan Campbell (5-11, 230, So.)
LCB	15	Kevin Thomas (6-1, 185, Sr.)
	30	Brian Baucham (5-11, 190, Fr.)
RCB	24	Shareece Wright (6-0, 180, Jr.)
	1	T.J. Bryant (6-1, 190, So.)
FS	2	Taylor Mays (6-3, 230, Sr.)
	26	Will Harris (6-1, 200, Sr.)
SS	36	Josh Pinkard (6-2, 210, Sr.)
	27	Marshall Jones (6-0, 185, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	30	Joe Houston (5-8, 170, Jr.)
P	25	Billy O'Malley (6-1, 195, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	USC	OPP
SCORING	488	117
Points Per Game	37.5	9.0
FIRST DOWNS	305	181
Rushing	132	66
Passing	153	86
Penalty	20	29
RUSHING YARDAGE	2533	1136
Yards gained rushing	2808	1565
Yards lost rushing	275	429
Rushing Attempts	503	416
Average Per Rush	5.0	2.7
Average Per Game	194.8	87.4
TDs Rushing	27	8
PASSING YARDAGE	3378	1747
Att-Comp-Int	388-254-12	382-199-19
Average Per Pass	8.7	4.6
Average Per Catch	13.3	8.8
Average Per Game	259.8	134.4
TDs Passing	36	6
TOTAL OFFENSE	5911	2883
Total Plays	891	798
Average Per Play	6.6	3.6
Average Per Game	454.7	221.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	23-610	39-775
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	49-392	12-122
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	19-276	12-81

TEAM STATISTICS	USC	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	26.5	19.9
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.0	10.2
INT RETURN AVG.	14.5	6.8
FUMBLES-LOST	23-10	16-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	103-948	81-658
Average Per Game	72.9	50.6
PUNTS-YARDS	47-1733	96-4075
Average Per Punt	36.9	42.4
Net punt average	33.0	36.7
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:14	28:46
3RD-DOWN CONV.	77/168	51/185
3rd-Down Pct.	46%	28%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	12/20	5/15
4th-Down Pct.	60%	33%
SACKS BY-YARDS	29-220	18-118
MISC YARDS	0	24
TDS SCORED	66	14
FG-ATTEMPTS	9-13	7-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	65-66	12-13
ATTENDANCE	520756	328546
Games/Avg Per Game	6/86793	6/54758
Neutral Site Games		1/93293

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
USC	117	172	94	105	488
Opponent	48	30	7	32	117

Damian Williams, the Arkansas transfer who had 58 catches and nine touchdowns last year. Ronald Johnson, David Ausberry and Travon Patterson are nice options to have as well.

So are tailbacks C.J. Gable, Stafon Johnson, Joe McKnight, Curtis McNeal, Allen Bradford and Marc Tyler, plus fullback Stanley Havili and the other members of USC's loaded running-back unit.

"The veteran tailbacks are all ready for breakout seasons," Carroll says.

The offensive philosophy might call for as much run-pass balance as possible, but watch for the Trojans to use the ground game to set up the passing attack more so than in the past—especially early in the season as the quarterback settles in.

Besides taking pressure off Corp or Barkley, a dominant running game would eat the clock and keep the defense off the field. Last year, USC wanted the defensive unit on the field because the results were usually good. But with a rebuilt front seven and a new coordinator (Rocky Seto), the situation is more tenuous this year.

The Trojans must replace three starters on both the defensive line and at linebacker, including Clay Matthews, Brian Cushing and Rey Maualuga—the core of one of the stingiest defenses in Pac-10 history. In fact, only one of USC's elite defenders returns—free safety Taylor Mays. While he's one of the best players in the country and makes everyone around him better, Mays is only one player.

That means the Trojans need the other returning starters—tackle Christian Tupou and strong safety Josh Pinkard—to be impact players week after week, and the first-time starters must play like veterans.

Sophomore Chris Galippo takes over the middle from Maualuga. He's big and fast and was one of the top Major League Baseball prospects in the country a few years ago. But he played sparingly last season and has much to learn. Michael Morgan (strong side) and Malcolm Smith (weak side) are projected to flank Galippo, although those positions could remain unsettled well into fall.

There's more experience on the line with Tupou (10 starts in '08) and Averell Spicer (3) at tackle and star-in-the-making Everson Griffen (3) and Malik Jackson on the ends.

Backing up the front seven is a veteran secondary. Pinkard could play strong safety alongside Mays, or cornerback, where he started for two seasons. Will Harris started five games at safety last year, while cornerbacks Kevin Thomas and Shareece Wright both have plenty of experience.

RECRUITING REPORT

Another year, another elite class for the Trojans. USC once again had the best class in the Pac-10, and this year's recruits have plenty of stars outside of quarterback **Matt Barkley**, who was *Rivals.com's* No. 1 player in the nation. **Patrick Hall** is one of the country's best athletes, and he should star at safety in the future. Defensive end **Devon Kennard** might have ascended to the No. 1 ranking in the nation if not for a knee injury. Then there are other playmakers such as **T.J. McDonald, Hebron Fangupo, Kevin Graf, John Martinez** ... and the list goes on and on.

—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *EVERSON GRIFFEN, DE*

The junior could be USC's next great defensive lineman. The former five-star recruit was a pass-rush specialist in '08, but should play full time this fall—and possibly lead the conference in sacks.

2 OREGON DUCKS

LeGARRETTE BLOUNT › RB

TOP 25 PICK

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.3	@BOISE STATE	32-37
A huge Thursday night game (ESPN) on the opening weekend. We'll know if the Ducks are a BCS contender when this contest is over.		
S.12	Purdue	32-26 (OT)
S.19	Utah	
S.26	California	16-26
O.3	Washington State	63-14
O.10	@UCLA	31-24
O.24	@WASHINGTON	44-10
O.31	USC	10-44
N.7	@STANFORD	35-28
N.14	Arizona State	54-20
N.21	@ARIZONA	55-45
D.3	Oregon State	65-38

BOWL PROJECTION
» HOLIDAY BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE › A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Veteran quarterback and loads of talent at running back and receiver.
» Holes on defense (line and secondary) that won't easily be filled.

Here's where things get interesting, at least for those trying to project the order of finish in a league that, because of quarterback issues, would seem to defy projection.

While mired in QB controversies, USC and California both have enough returning talent elsewhere to be declared the front-runner in the Pac-10.

But then it gets muddled, as Oregon could land in any number of slots. While the Ducks are settled at quarterback—no team is in better shape—they took so many personnel hits at other positions (including head coach) that it's difficult to say if they'll beat out Cal for the second-place spot in the league. (USC likely has the Pac-10 title wrapped up before the first kickoff of 2009.)

Could Oregon challenge for the conference title? Sure. But it could also finish fourth or fifth.

The big question, of course, is how the Ducks will handle the coaching change. Mike Bellotti retired in March after 14 years in command. Oregon named offensive coordinator Chip Kelly the coach-in-waiting before Bellotti made it official, so the transition was seamless. But that doesn't mean everything will be a breeze on the field and in the locker room this season. Bellotti excelled at managing the program and leaving much of the game preparation to his assistants.

Kelly has two key aspects of the game working in his favor this fall.

One is the schedule, which is custom-made for a first-rate season. The Ducks open at Boise State and play Purdue and Utah at home, which means there is some risk, but also the potential for reward. And in conference action, the Ducks play against USC, Cal and Oregon State in Eugene.

Kelly also steps into an envious situation with his quarterbacks.

CHRIS BERNACCHI / SPORTPICS

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Jeremiah Masoli

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	131.96	239-136-5	56.9	1744	13	145.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
LeGarrette Blount	13	137	1002	7.3	17	77.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jeff Maehl	13	39	421	10.8	5	32.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
T.J. Ward	13	64	37	101

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Will Tukuafu	13	7.5	46

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Walter Thurmond	5	67	13.4	1

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 10-3
Pac-10: 7-2
(beat Oklahoma State in the Pacific Life Holiday Bowl, 42-31)

Coach: Chip Kelly, 1st year
Offensive coordinator: Chip Kelly
Defensive coordinator: Nick Aliotti (12th year)

Stadium: Autzen Stadium (54,000)
Tickets: 800-WEB-FOOT
Site: Eugene
Official athletic Web site: www.goducks.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	2	Jeremiah Masoli (5-11, 214, Jr.)
	11	Justin Roper (6-6, 204, Jr.)
RB	9	LeGarrette Blount (6-2, 240, Sr.)
	22	Andre Crenshaw (5-11, 196, Sr.)
LOT	69	Bo Thran (6-5, 295, Jr.)
	76	Charlie Carmichael (6-4, 295, So.)
LOG	54	Jordan Holmes (6-5, 285, Jr.)
	70	Ramsen Golpashin (6-4, 280, So.)
C	72	Hamani Stevens (6-4, 288, Fr.)
	64	Max Forer (6-3, 271, Jr.)
ROG	79	Mark Asper (6-7, 323, Jr.)
	74	Darrion Weems (6-5, 310, So.)
ROT	68	C.E. Kaiser (6-4, 290, Jr.)
	65	Lance Barker (6-1, 245, Fr.)
TE	83	Ed Dickson (6-5, 243, Sr.)
	26	Malachi Lewis (6-4, 220, Jr.)
WR	19	Jamere Holland (6-1, 185, Jr.)
	80	Lavasier Tuinei (6-5, 200, So.)
WR	23	Jeff Maehl (6-1, 175, Jr.)
	91	Rory Cavaille (6-3, 207, Sr.)
WR	10	D.J. Davis (6-1, 205, Jr.)
	19	Tyrece Gaines (6-2, 225, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	39	Will Tukuafu (6-4, 272, Sr.)
	88	Brandon Bair (6-7, 250, Jr.)
LDT	59	Terrence Montgomery (6-1, 291, Jr.)
	95	Tonio Celotto (6-3, 275, Jr.)
RDT	90	Blake Ferras (6-6, 290, Sr.)
	96	Mike Bellagamba (6-2, 267, Sr.)
RDE	99	Zac Clark (6-2, 256, Jr.)
	58	Kenny Rowe (6-3, 230, Jr.)
SLB	38	Eddie Pleasant (5-11, 223, So.)
	44	Brandon Hanna (6-2, 233, So.)
MLB	55	Casey Matthews (6-2, 235, Jr.)
	54	Riley Showalter (6-3, 225, Sr.)
WLB	35	Spencer Paysinger (6-3, 216, Jr.)
	33	Tyrell Irvin (6-1, 219, Jr.)
LCB	17	Willie Glasper (5-11, 188, Sr.)
	21	Brian Butterfield (6-0, 182, Jr.)
RCB	6	Walter Thurmond (6-0, 180, Sr.)
	37	Talmadge Jackson (5-10, 182, Jr.)
FS	2	T.J. Ward (5-11, 201, Sr.)
	14	Javes Lewis (6-1, 185, So.)
SS	1	Marvin Johnson (5-11, 199, Jr.)
	27	Titus Jackson (6-0, 192, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	25	Morgan Flint (5-9, 163, Sr.)
P	26	Tim Taylor (5-11, 182, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OREGON	OPP
SCORING	545	367
Points Per Game	41.9	28.2
FIRST DOWNS	301	276
Rushing	160	82
Passing	113	165
Penalty	28	29
RUSHING YARDAGE	3641	1552
Yards gained rushing	4019	1967
Yards lost rushing	378	415
Rushing Attempts	585	503
Average Per Rush	6.2	3.1
Average Per Game	280.1	119.4
TDs Rushing	47	18
PASSING YARDAGE	2662	3513
Att-Comp-Int	373-204-12	531-307-16
Average Per Pass	7.1	6.6
Average Per Catch	13.0	11.4
Average Per Game	204.8	270.2
TDs Passing	20	25
TOTAL OFFENSE	6303	5065
Total Plays	958	1034
Average Per Play	6.6	4.9
Average Per Game	484.8	389.6
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	56-1217	65-1289
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	29-363	19-198
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-236	12-173

TEAM STATISTICS	OREGON	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.7	19.8
PUNT RETURN AVG.	12.5	10.4
INT RETURN AVG.	14.8	14.4
FUMBLES-LOST	26-14	21-15
PENALTIES-YARDS	92-807	92-852
Average Per Game	62.1	65.5
PUNTS-YARDS	54-2291	78-2955
Average Per Punt	42.4	37.9
Net punt average	35.4	32.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	25:11	34:49
3RD-DOWN CONV.	72/182	88/226
3rd-Down Pct.	40%	39%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	8/19	9/21
4th-Down Pct.	42%	43%
SACKS BY-YARDS	40-235	20-121
MISC YARDS	0	23
TDS SCORED	71	44
FG-ATTEMPTS	18-27	19-27
PAT-ATTEMPTS	63-65	40-41
ATTENDANCE	350661	345515
Games/Avg Per Game	6/58444	6/57586
Neutral Site Games		1/59106

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Oregon	153	108	146	129	9	545
Opponent	62	130	78	94	3	367

Junior Jeremiah Masoli is back to operate Kelly's spread option, as is Justin Roper, the star of the 2007 Sun Bowl who was injured last season.

Masoli won't remind anyone of Joey Harrington and his ability to throw the ball downfield, but he is tough, accurate and a fantastic runner who put up 59.8 yards per game on the ground in 2008.

For the offense to keep humming, the Ducks must first solidify their line, which lost its best players in center Max Unger and left tackle Fenuki Tupou. And with 1,201-yard rusher Jeremiah Johnson gone, they must find a complement to 1,002-yard rusher LeGarrette Blount in the backfield. Senior Andre Crenshaw was probably the front-runner entering training camp.

Wideout D.J. Davis, who won a starting spot before injuring his knee, is expected to be ready to play this fall. He'll join starter Jeff Maehl, gifted junior Jamere Holland and two junior-college transfers in Lavasier Tuinei and Tyrece Gaines, the No. 1 juco receiver in the country last year.

With those options for Masoli on the outside, all the Ducks need is some decent line play and a second option at tailback to field another high-powered attack.

And Oregon will need to score, because the defense, which wasn't granite to begin with (28.2 points and 389.6 yards allowed per game in '08), lost most of its top players.

The biggest hole on the line was left by end Nick Reed, a first-team all-league player and one of the best pass rushers in school history. The Ducks are hoping junior-college transfer Zac Clark is up to the challenge. If not, then Kenny Rowe will step in.

In all, Oregon lost three starters up front, with only end Will Tukuafu returning. Junior-college transfer Terrence Montgomery might be an answer at one of the tackle spots, but that was a major area of concern entering training camp.

Two of the three linebackers return (Spencer Paysinger and Casey Matthews), as do two starters in the secondary: Walter Thurmond, a top-rate cornerback, and safety T.J. Ward.

But the Ducks must replace two first-team all-conference players in cornerback Jairus Byrd and strong safety Patrick Chung, the heart of last year's defense. Junior Marvin Johnson is first in line at rover, but he'll have to play far above expectations to approach Chung's production and value.

The special teams have holes to fill as well. Senior kicker Morgan Flint returns and Thurmond will again handle kickoff returns, but the Ducks lost their punter (Josh Syria) and punt-return man (Byrd).

RECRUITING REPORT

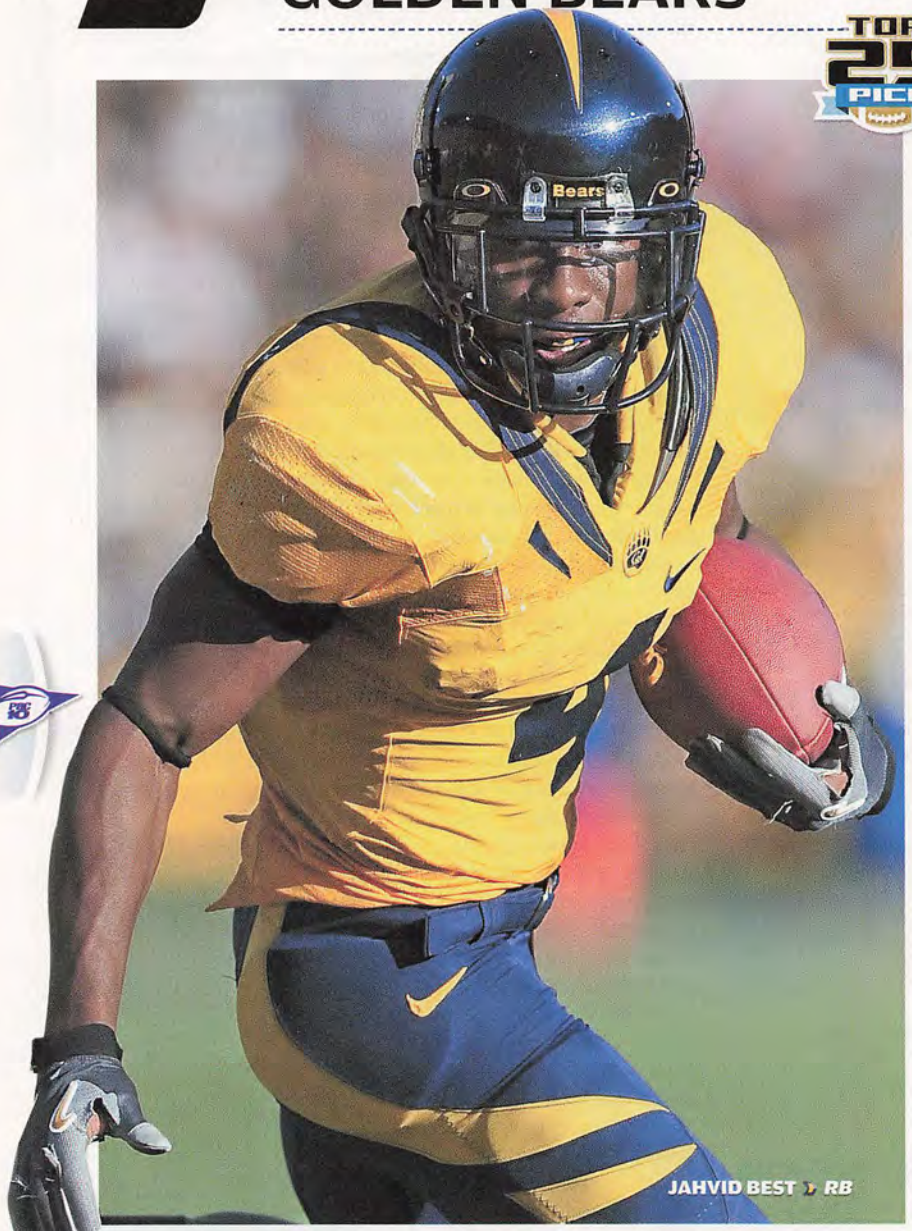
Oregon's class is solid, but Ducks fans can't help but think about what might have been. Oregon finished second for many top prospects, but it still was a good all-around effort. The Ducks went hard for defensive prospects and did well at linebacker and defensive back. The offensive line was a major need and was addressed with quality prospects such as **Karrington Armstrong** and **Jamaal Burrell.** You don't recruit junior-college players to sit the bench, and Oregon expects four-star linebacker recruit **Bryson Littlejohn** to make an immediate impact.
—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *JAMERE HOLLAND, WR*

The junior receiver could be ready for a breakout season. A coveted recruit who once clocked 10.36 in the 100-meter dash, he signed with USC and spent the '06 season on the sidelines because of an injury before transferring to Oregon.

3 CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BEARS

TOP 25 PICK



JAHVID BEST › RB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Maryland	27-35
S.12	Eastern Washington	
S.19	@MINNESOTA	
S.26	@OREGON	26-16
GAME TO WATCH		
0.3	USC	3-17
This showdown follows a trip to Oregon, so we'll know early whether the Bears are a serious contender for the Rose Bowl.		
0.17	@UCLA	41-20
0.24	Washington State	66-3
0.31	@ARIZONA STATE	24-14
N.7	Oregon State	21-34
N.14	Arizona	27-42
N.21	@STANFORD	37-16
D.5	@WASHINGTON	48-7

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» LAS VEGAS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE › B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Tailback Jahvid Best runs behind a veteran line.
- Golden Bears have an experienced defense.
- Shutdown cornerback in Syd'Quan Thompson.

One question summarizes Cal's prospects for the 2009 season, and it's not, "Will the quarterbacks play better than they did last year?"

Instead, the question in Berkeley is: If not now, when?

If the Bears cannot overtake USC now—with the Trojans breaking in a new quarterback and new defense—then when will they?

If they cannot make the big plays and big stops now—with talent at the skill positions and eight starters returning on defense—then when will they?

If they can't reach their first Rose Bowl in 51 years this year—with a deep, veteran team, good chemistry, the right systems and the conference title there for the taking—then when will they?

Cal has a terrific chance this fall, much better than in past years.

"Everybody believes we can be Pac-10 champions," quarterback Kevin Riley says.

And Riley will be an integral part of Cal's success, or failure, in that long-awaited endeavor.

If there is efficient, consistent quarterback play, then all things are possible for the Bears, who boast one of the top defenses in the conference and one of the best playmakers in the country in tailback Jahvid Best.

Best rushed for 1,580 yards last season despite missing a game to injury and not having a complementary aerial attack. Defenses were designed to stop him, yet the junior still averaged 8.1 yards per carry and 131.7 yards per game as a sophomore.

But the Bears haven't fielded a top-notch quarterback since Aaron Rodgers in 2004. The current troubles began in the second half of the '07 season, when coach Jeff Tedford stuck with Nate Longshore through a dreadful series of performances.

Last fall, Tedford took the opposite approach and used a quick hook with Riley, yanking the him despite a 3-1 record and solid numbers. The season-long rotation with Longshore produced

BEN MUNN / CAL SPORT MEDIA

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Kevin Riley

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
11	117.85	221-112-6	50.7	1360	14	123.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jahvid Best	12	194	1580	8.1	15	131.7

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Nyan Boateng	13	29	439	15.1	5	33.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Michael Mohamed	13	51	36	87

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Tyson Alualu	13	6	51

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Syd'Quan Thompson	4	128	32.0	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
Pac-10: 6-3
(beat Miami in the Champs Sports Bowl, 24-17)

Coach: Jeff Tedford
8th year (59-30)
Career record: 59-30
Offensive coordinator:
Andy Ludwig (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Bob Gregory (8th year)

Stadium: California Memorial Stadium (72,516)
Tickets: 800-GO-BEARS
Site: Berkeley
Official athletic Web site:
www.calbears.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	13	Kevin Riley (6-2, 221, Jr.)
	10	Brock Mansion (6-5, 237, So.)
FB	33	Brian Holley (5-9, 235, Sr.)
	22	Will Kapp (5-10, 216, So.)
RB	4	Jahvid Best (5-10, 195, Jr.)
	34	Shane Vereen (5-10, 198, So.)
LOT	79	Mike Tepper (6-7, 319, Sr.)
	75	Matt Summers-Gavin (6-4, 291, Fr.)
LOG	70	Mark Boskovich (6-4, 304, Jr.)
	71	Sam DeMartinis (6-5, 293, So.)
C	54	Chris Guarnero (6-2, 275, Jr.)
	73	Richard Fisher (6-4, 290, Jr.)
ROG	61	Justin Cheadle (6-2, 299, So.)
	58	Chet Teofilo (6-3, 329, Sr.)
ROT	72	Mitchell Schwartz (6-7, 335, So.)
	53	Donovan Edwards (6-5, 285, Jr.)
TE	44	Tad Smith (6-5, 254, Sr.)
	80	Anthony Miller (6-3, 258, So.)
WR	8	Nyan Boateng (6-2, 211, Sr.)
	3	Jeremy Ross (5-11, 216, Jr.)
WR	1	Marvin Jones (6-2, 190, So.)
	86	Verran Tucker (6-1, 204, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	97	Cameron Jordan (6-4, 287, Jr.)
	91	Cody Jones (6-4, 276, Jr.)
NT	76	Derrick Hill (6-2, 302, Jr.)
	96	Kendrick Payne (6-2, 300, Fr.)
RDE	44	Tyson Alualu (6-3, 295, Sr.)
	47	Keith Browner (6-6, 268, Jr.)
LOLB	9	Eddie Young (6-0, 239, Sr.)
	4	Chris Little (6-2, 224, Fr.)
LILB	30	Mychal Kendricks (6-0, 230, So.)
	90	Solomona Aigamaua (6-1, 246, So.)
RILB	18	Michael Mohamed (6-3, 237, Jr.)
	43	Charles Johnson (6-1, 232, Jr.)
ROLB	10	Devin Bishop (6-1, 239, Sr.)
	3	D.J. Holt (6-1, 250, So.)
LCB	26	Darian Hagan (6-0, 186, Jr.)
	17	Chris Conte (6-3, 205, Jr.)
RCB	5	Syd'Quan Thompson (5-9, 187, Sr.)
	27	Charles Amadi (5-10, 186, Jr.)
FS	25	Brett Johnson (6-1, 194, Sr.)
	11	Sean Cattouse (6-2, 206, So.)
SS	29	Marcus Ezeff (5-11, 219, Sr.)
	7	D.J. Campbell (5-11, 198, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	40	Giorgio Tavecchio (5-8, 173, So.)
P	19	Bryan Anger (6-3, 199, So.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	CALIFORNIA	OPP
SCORING	424	259
Points Per Game	32.6	19.9
FIRST DOWNS	230	229
Rushing	97	95
Passing	110	115
Penalty	23	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2421	1589
Yards gained rushing	2786	2056
Yards lost rushing	365	467
Rushing Attempts	435	495
Average Per Rush	5.6	3.2
Average Per Game	186.2	122.2
TDs Rushing	22	16
PASSING YARDAGE	2467	2509
Att-Comp-Int	397-209-10	432-223-24
Average Per Pass	6.2	5.8
Average Per Catch	11.8	11.3
Average Per Game	189.8	193.0
TDs Passing	25	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	4888	4098
Total Plays	832	927
Average Per Play	5.9	4.4
Average Per Game	376.0	315.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	43-877	66-1352
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	38-448	23-284
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	24-419	10-184

TEAM STATISTICS	CALIFORNIA	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	20.4	20.5
PUNT RETURN AVG.	11.8	12.3
INT RETURN AVG.	17.5	18.4
FUMBLES-LOST	16-9	28-10
PENALTIES-YARDS	77-649	75-647
Average Per Game	49.9	49.8
PUNTS-YARDS	74-3087	79-3190
Average Per Punt	41.7	40.4
Net punt average	36.0	33.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	29:06	30:47
3RD-DOWN CONV.	47/159	61/197
3rd-Down Pct.	30%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	5/14	7/22
4th-Down Pct.	36%	32%
SACKS BY-YARDS	35-270	25-183
MISC YARDS	75	4
TDS SCORED	54	33
FG-ATTEMPTS	15-21	10-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	53-53	31-32
ATTENDANCE	862874	520594
Games/Avg Per Game	14/61634	10/52059
Neutral Site Games		2/42268

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
California	108	124	81	111	424
Opponents	40	65	86	68	259

stagnation at the position and a fourth-place league finish.

Longshore may be gone, but Riley is back for his junior year to compete for the starting job this fall with sophomore Brock Mansion and redshirt freshman Beau Sweeney.

Tedford declined to name a starter after spring practice, but Riley is the front-runner.

There is greater uncertainty about *how* Riley will play than *how much* he'll play. He's mobile and tough and can make good throws, but his accuracy has been an issue. With the help of Tedford and new offensive coordinator Andy Ludwig, Riley has tweaked his mechanics and hopes to improve on his efficiency rating (117.85) from last year.

The Bears lost All-America center Alex Mack and guard Noris Malele but have veteran replacements at both spots and should be solid on the offensive line.

Like Riley, the receivers are experienced but must become more efficient by catching a higher percentage of passes and running crisper routes. Six players are competing for playing time at wide receiver. Although sophomore Marvin Jones had the best spring, all the Bears need is for one impact player to emerge and make defenses pay for stacking the line to stop Best from running the ball.

There's also a hole at tight end after junior Cameron Morrah (8 TDs) surprised the coaches by declaring early for the NFL draft.

Defensively, the Bears are set at nine spots, as the only holes in their 3-4 alignment are at linebacker. Depending on their success filling those spots, coordinator Bob Gregory's unit could be better than last year's, which was fourth in the Pac-10 in total defense, second in scoring defense and first in takeaways.

Cal has all-conference talent on every level, from end Tyson Alualu to linebacker Michael Mohamed and cornerback Syd'Quan Thompson.

The line is so good that Alualu, a second-team all-conference pick, isn't the most talented player.

That would be junior end Cameron Jordan, who had 11 tackles for loss in '08 despite not playing full time.

Mohamed, who didn't start last season but was Cal's No. 3 tackler, will handle one of the inside-linebacking positions. Eddie Young is back as a starter at an outside spot, although he is expected to be pushed by several junior-college players arriving in the fall. The other inside position could go to sophomore Mychal Kendricks, while the front-runner for the other outside spot is Devin Bishop, the younger brother of former Cal linebacker Desmond Bishop.

RECRUITING REPORT

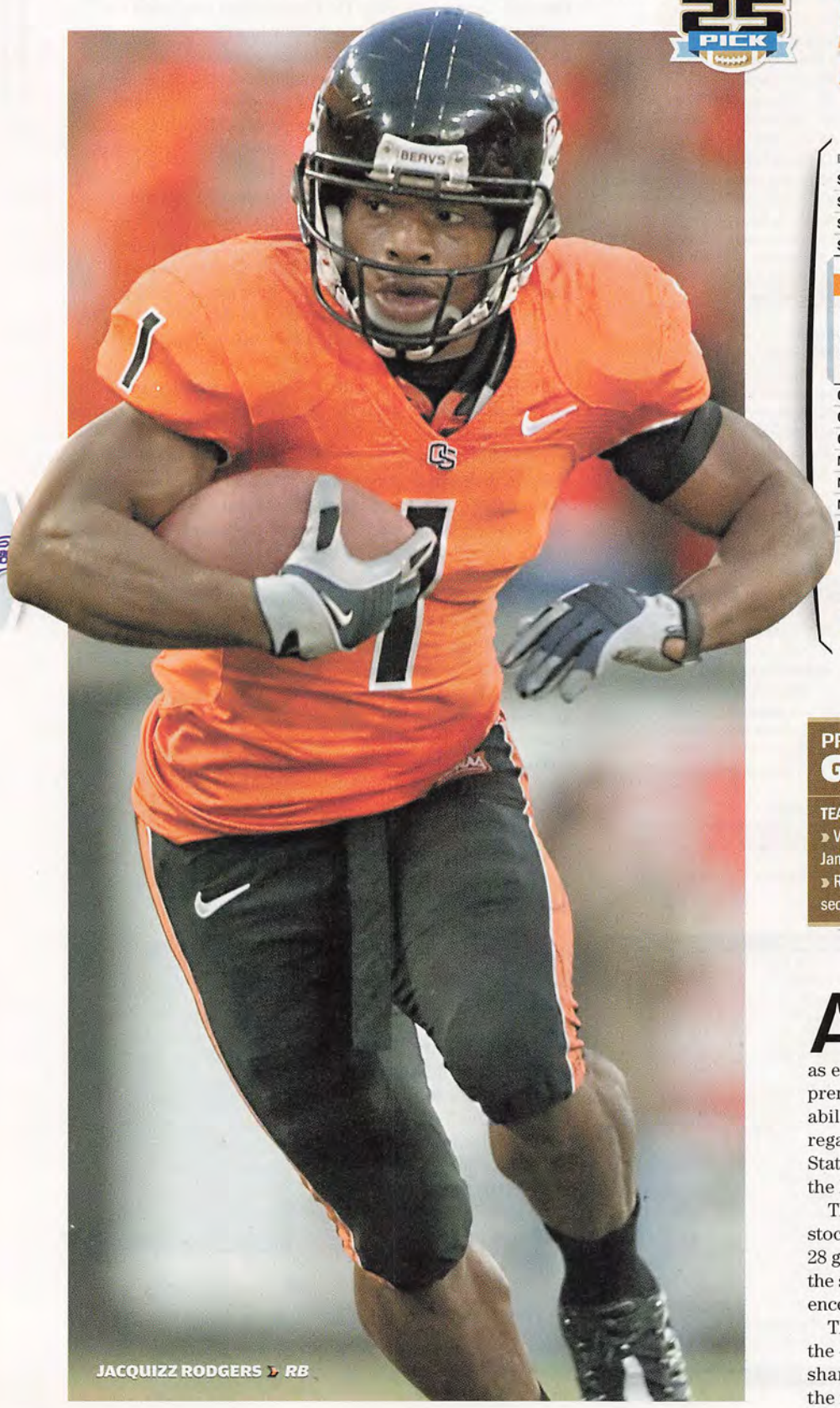
Cal continues to produce solid recruiting classes. While it is a smaller group compared to others in the conference, it has headline recruits such as four-star lineman **Deandre Coleman**, four-star linebacker **Jarred Price** and four-star cornerback **Steve Williams**. The Golden Bears did a nice job of adding high-quality offensive linemen and a great group of defensive backs. They also landed one of the nation's best running backs in **Dasarte Yarnway**, a solid between-the-tackles runner who has a nice burst.
—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *MICHAEL MOHAMED, ILB*

The inside linebacker was named honorable-mention all-conference last year despite not starting and filling several roles. As an every-down player in '09, he should be one of the best in the league.

4 OREGON STATE BEAVERS

TOP 25 PICK



JACQUIZZ RODGERS » RB

JAY DROWNS

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Portland State	
S.12	@UNLV	
S.19	Cincinnati	
S.26	Arizona	19-17
GAME TO WATCH		
0.3	**@ARIZONA STATE**	**27-25**
A victory in the conference road opener would signal the Beavers are once again a contender. But a loss, especially a bad one, would indicate the team isn't ready for prime time.		
0.10	Stanford	28-36
0.24	@USC	27-21
0.31	UCLA	34-6
N.7	@CALIFORNIA	34-21
N.14	Washington	34-13
N.21	@WASHINGTON STATE	66-13
D.3	@OREGON	38-65

BOWL PROJECTION
» SUN BOWL

MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Veteran quarterback and the Rodgers brothers, James and Jacquizz, are excellent on offense.
» Rebuilt defense that lost the entire starting secondary will hurt.

Any other team facing Oregon State's challenges would be picked fifth, perhaps as low as eighth. But the Beavers deserve a premium based on coach Mike Riley's ability to produce winning teams, regardless of personnel losses. Oregon State is the only consistent winner in the Pac-10, with the exception of USC.

The program that was the laughingstock of the league for decades has won 28 games over the past three seasons, the second-highest total in the conference.

There are a couple of reasons for the continued success. Riley has a sharp eye for overlooked talent on the recruiting trail. He and defensive

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Jeremiah Masoli

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
12	131.96	239-136-5	56.9	1744	13	145.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
LeGarrette Blount	13	137	1002	7.3	17	77.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jeff Maehl	13	39	421	10.8	5	32.4

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
T.J. Ward	13	64	37	101

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Will Tukuafu	13	7.5	46

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Walter Thurmond	5	67	13.4	1

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
Pac-10: 7-2
(beat Pittsburgh in the Sun Bowl, 3-0)

Coach: Mike Riley
9th year (56-42)
Career record: 56-42
Offensive coordinator:
Danny Langsdorf (5th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Mark Banker (7th year)

Stadium: Reser Stadium (45,674)
Tickets: 800-GO-BEAVS
Site: Corvallis
Official athletic Web site:
www.osubeavers.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	5	Sean Canfield (6-4, 220, Sr.)
	3	Lyle Moevao (5-11, 220, Sr.)
RB	1	Jacquizz Rodgers (5-7, 193, So.)
	24	Ryan McCants (6-1, 240, So.)
LOT	50	Mike Remmers (6-4, 286, So.)
	64	Colin Kelly (6-4, 266, r-Fr.)
LOG	61	Mike Lamb (6-3, 276, So.)
	71	Brent McNeil (6-3, 325, Jr.)
C	60	Alex Linnenkohl (6-2, 288, Jr.)
	70	Grant Johnson (6-3, 265, So.)
ROG	73	Gregg Peat (6-3, 296, Sr.)
	74	Burke Ellis (6-4, 249, So.)
ROT	72	Timi Oshinowo (6-6, 283, Jr.)
	64	Colin Kelly (6-4, 266, Fr.)
TE	88	Howard Croom (6-3, 254, Sr.)
	83	Brady Camp (6-4, 258, Jr.)
WR	15	Darrell Catchings (5-11, 179, Jr.)
	80	Damola Adeniji (6-3, 219, Sr.)
WR	85	John Reese (6-3, 240, Sr.)
	87	Joe Halahuni (6-2, 254, So.)
WR	8	James Rodgers (5-7, 185, Jr.)
	84	Taylor Kavanaugh (5-10, 175, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	55	Ben Terry (6-2, 243, Sr.)
	81	Gabe Miller (6-3, 231, Jr.)
LDT	54	Stephen Paea (6-1, 293, Jr.)
	97	Sioeli Nau (6-2, 307, Sr.)
RDT	92	Mitchel Hunt (6-2, 271, Jr.)
	78	Brennan Olander (6-1, 274, Jr.)
RDE	74	Kevin Frahm (6-2, 255, So.)
	77	Evan Hull (6-4, 256, Jr.)
SLB	32	Keaton Kristick (6-3, 226, Sr.)
	29	Zane Norris (6-2, 200, Fr.)
MLB	45	David Pa'aluhi (5-11, 230, So.)
	43	Tony Wilson (6-1, 219, Fr.)
WLB	35	Keith Pankey (6-0, 211, Jr.)
	59	Dwight Roberson (6-0, 238, Jr.)
LCB	21	Tim Clark (6-0, 170, Sr.)
	4	James Dockery (6-1, 175, Jr.)
RCB	3	Patrick Henderson (5-10, 175, Sr.)
	17	Brandon Hardin (6-2, 206, So.)
FS	10	Lance Mitchell (6-2, 205, So.)
	26	Josh LaGrone (6-1, 181, Fr.)
SS	28	Suaesi Tuimaunei (6-1, 208, Jr.)
	5	Cameron Collins (6-2, 216, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	27	Justin Kahut (5-8, 158, Jr.)
P	7	Johnny Hekker (6-5, 211, So.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OSU	OPP
SCORING	397	300
Points Per Game	30.5	23.1
FIRST DOWNS	280	206
Rushing	120	86
Passing	142	103
Penalty	18	17
RUSHING YARDAGE	2055	1706
Yards gained rushing	2401	2167
Yards lost rushing	346	461
Rushing Attempts	487	454
Average Per Rush	4.2	3.8
Average Per Game	158.1	131.2
TDs Rushing	21	15
PASSING YARDAGE	3237	2352
Att-Comp-Int	448-270-15	354-183-13
Average Per Pass	7.2	6.6
Average Per Catch	12.0	12.9
Average Per Game	249.0	180.9
TDs Passing	25	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	5292	4058
Total Plays	935	808
Average Per Play	5.7	5.0
Average Per Game	407.1	312.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	47-1102	73-1363
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	40-393	23-231
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	13-186	15-289

TEAM STATISTICS	OSU	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	23.4	18.7
PUNT RETURN AVG.	9.8	10.0
INT RETURN AVG.	14.3	19.3
FUMBLES-LOST	18-6	26-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	87-738	93-847
Average Per Game	56.8	65.2
PUNTS-YARDS	60-2355	78-3293
Average Per Punt	39.2	42.2
Net punt average	33.1	34.4
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:05	27:55
3RD-DOWN CONV.	72/183	52/175
3rd-Down Pct.	39%	30%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	10/16	7/14
4th-Down Pct.	62%	50%
SACKS BY-YARDS	39-275	21-162
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	50	35
FG-ATTEMPTS	17-26	18-25
PAT-ATTEMPTS	44-47	32-33
ATTENDANCE	269584	379958
Games/Avg Per Game	6/44931	6/63326
Neutral Site Games		1/49037

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Oregon State	76	96	109	116	397
Opponent	57	104	63	76	300

coordinator Mark Banker put together schemes that make the most of their personnel. And despite the personnel losses, the Beavers have the Rodgers brothers—tailback Jacquizz and wideout James—plus options at quarterback.

The first look at QB will go to senior Sean Canfield, who was the '07 starter. But because of a shoulder injury, he lost his job last fall to Lyle Moevao, who directed the Beavers to victory after victory and may not want to relinquish the role. However, Moevao's status for training camp was uncertain because of his own shoulder injury. If he isn't ready for the opener, then Canfield will be back under center.

Whether it's Canfield or Moevao, there's a good option in the backfield in sophomore Jacquizz Rodgers, the league's top rusher and 2008 Pac-10 Offensive Player of the Year. Rodgers has a terrific sense for finding gaps and hiding behind his blockers, and his low center of gravity makes him difficult to corral.

His older brother, James, is back at receiver after suffering a broken collarbone against Oregon last year, so expect more potent fly sweeps from the Beavers. His return will offset the departures of wideout Sammie Stroughter and dependable slot receiver Shane Morales. Redshirt freshman Jordan Bishop is a major talent who may not see much time this year, but since the receiving unit is one of two big questions offensively, it's possible.

The other question is the left side of the line, where OSU must replace all-leaguers Andy Levitre and Adam Speer. The early front-runners for the left guard and tackle spots were sophomores Mike Remmers and Mike Lamb, respectively, but don't discount the chances of redshit freshman Colin Kelly.

It's worth noting that while the back end of the Beavers' schedule is brutal, the first half is manageable. That should allow the new linemen and receivers to find their comfort zones and avoid another slow start.

It should also help the rebuilt defense. Gone is the entire secondary and ends Victor Butler and Slade Norris, who had 22 sacks between them last year. Senior Ben Terry and sophomore Kevin Frahm are projected to take over up front and join returning tackle Stephen Paea, one of the league's best interior defensive linemen.

The middle linebacker is projected to be sophomore David Pa'aluhi, a Hawaiian kickboxer who played one season of high school football. Oregon State is set on the outside with returning starters Keith Pankey and Keaton Kristick.

The secondary loses Keenan Lewis and Brandon Hughes, both NFL-caliber cornerbacks. Tim Clark should fill one hole and there are options on the other side, including 6-2 Brandon Hardin.

RECRUITING REPORT

This class was overshadowed by others in the conference. But Beavers coaches do a tremendous job of evaluating players and making sure—perhaps better than any team in the conference—that the ones they recruit fit their style of play. There will be a major influx of overall athletic ability with this group. The line class will compete with the likes of UCLA's as one of the best in the Pac-10. Landing guard **Michael Philipp** was about as big as it gets for any team in the conference. He was No. 1 in the nation at his position.

—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *STEPHEN PAEA, DT*

The 293-pound junior is one of the top run-stoppers in the Pac-10. One of the reasons ends Victor Butler and Slade Norris combined for 22 sacks last season was Paea's presence in the middle of the line, occupying blockers.

5 UCLA BRUINS

The most improved team in the Pac-10 has no proven quarterback, major questions along the offensive line, a new tailback, a huge hole on the defensive line, a young secondary and a new defensive coordinator. And to top it all off, it might have to rely on a slew of true freshmen this fall.

And yet no team—not even winless Washington—is poised to make a bigger jump in 2009 than UCLA, which finished eighth last season in league standings.

With a few roster upgrades made by second-year coach Rick Neuheisel and 17 starters returning, there's a chance UCLA could do well in the Pac-10 .

The Bruins averaged 283.2 yards per game last season, had the worst running game in the conference, tossed a league-high 21 interceptions and allowed a whopping 35 sacks. Their starting quarterback was a mistake machine and the Bruins' top runner averaged only 39.7 yards per game.

The upgrades begin at quarterback. Kevin Craft, who started every game and threw 20 interceptions in '08, is back for his senior year. But if he's starting the opener, something has gone wrong. The projected starter is instead redshirt freshman Kevin Prince, who possesses a stronger arm than Craft, but is untested in a college atmosphere.

"We have to play the quarterback position better than we did a year ago, and I'm confident that we will," Neuheisel says.

Prince won't need pinpoint precision because of his big targets. Five members of the wideout rotation are 6-3 or taller, and the smallest, 5-11 Terrence Austin, set a school record for all-purpose yards (1,878) last season.

But UCLA's best weapon might be true freshman Morrell Presley, who was the consensus No. 1 tight-end recruit in the country.

There's also a young but talented group of tailbacks that includes Christian Ramirez, Aundre Dean and Milton Knox.

The offensive line, which Neuheisel deemed "a major area of concern," should be better with the addition of junior-college transfer Ryan Taylor and tackle Sean Sheller, who missed last season after being injured in a vehicle accident.

The key for the offense is to not lose games, as the defense should be good enough to win its share.

The Bruins have all-conference talent in junior tackle Brian Price, senior linebacker Reggie Carter and senior cornerback Alterraun Verner.

Price is the top interior lineman in the league and one of the best in the country.

"We expect him to have a spectacular season," Neuheisel says.

Carter, who mans the middle, made 83 tackles last season and was a second-team all-league selection. He's flanked by Kyle Bosworth (brother of starting end Korey) and either Akeem Ayers or Steve Sloan. Defensive coordinator Chuck Bullough, who takes over for DeWayne Walker, will have plenty of options.

Verner is a lock to start at cornerback.

TERRENCE AUSTIN » WR

GEORGE HOLLAND / CSM

THE NEXT BIG THING

MORRELL PRESLEY, TE

Presley is only a freshman, but he's expected to be one of UCLA's top playmakers and, eventually, a dominant force in the conference. Ink him into the first round of the 2012 NFL draft.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
Pac-10: 3-6

Coach: Rick Neuheisel
2nd (4-8)
Career record: 70-38
Offensive coordinator:
Norm Chow (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Chuck Bullough (1st year)

Stadium: Rose Bowl (91,500)
Tickets: 310-UCLA-WIN
Site: Los Angeles
Official athletic Web site:
www.uclabruins.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	San Diego State	
S.12	@TENNESSEE	27-24 (OT)
S.19	Kansas State	
O.3	@STANFORD	23-20
GAME TO WATCH		
O.10	**Oregon**	**24-31**
One week before facing rival Cal, the Bruins take on a Pac-10 heavyweight in a game that should indicate whether they're a legitimate bowl contender.		
O.17	California	20-41
O.24	@ARIZONA	10-31
O.31	@OREGON STATE	6-34
N.7	Washington	27-7
N.14	@WASHINGTON STATE	28-3
N.21	Arizona State	9-34
N.28	@USC	7-28

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» POINSETTIA BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Big, veteran receivers.
- Playmakers throughout the defense.
- Questions at QB and offensive line.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	14	Kevin Prince (6-2, 226, r-Fr.)
FB	50	Chase Moline (6-2, 255, Sr.)
RB	24	Christian Ramirez (6-2, 212, Jr.)
LOT	72	Sean Sheller (6-5, 290, Jr.)
LOG	66	Ryan Taylor (6-3, 305, Jr.)
C	51	Kai Maiava (6-1, 311, So.)
ROG	75	Nick Ekbatani (6-5, 294, Sr.)
ROT	68	Nate Chandler (6-5, 271, So.)
TE	7	Morrell Presley (6-4, 222, Fr.)
WR	19	Dominique Johnson (6-3, 207, Jr.)
WR	4	Terrence Austin (5-11, 161, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	91	Reginald Stokes (6-3, 243, Jr.)
LDT	92	Brian Price (6-2, 300, Jr.)
RDT	90	Jerzy Siewierski (6-2, 285, Sr.)
RDE	55	Korey Bosworth (6-1, 244, Sr.)
SLB	40	Akeem Ayers (6-4, 234, So.)
MLB	51	Reggie Carter (6-1, 220, Sr.)
WLB	54	Kyle Bosworth (6-1, 233, Sr.)
LCB	9	Aaron Hester (6-1, 189, Fr.)
RCB	1	Alterraun Verner (5-11, 177, Sr.)
FS	3	Rahim Moore (6-1, 176, So.)
SS	20	Glenn Love (6-4, 200, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	25	Kai Forbath (6-0, 198, Jr.)
P	49	Jeff Locke (6-1, 198, Fr.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Randall Carroll
ATH, 5-10, 175
Originally a USC commitment, Carroll is a speedster who can play wide receiver or corner.

2 — Xavier Su'a Filo
OL, 6-4, 285
One of the top offensive linemen in the nation, he could project at any of the line positions.

3 — Richard Brehaut
QB, 6-2, 206
Brehaut enrolled early and wowed at UCLA's spring practices with his strong arm. He could be UCLA's future star.

4 — Stanley Hasiak
G, 6-6, 320
He was one of the nation's best pure guards, and is a steal from Hawaii.

5 — Morrell Presley
TE, 6-4, 222
A combination tight end/wide receiver, Presley will cause matchup problems no matter where he lines up.

ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Idaho State	
S.19	Louisiana-Monroe	
S.26	@GEORGIA	10-27
0.3	Oregon State	25-27
0.10	@WASHINGTON STATE	31-0
0.17	Washington	39-19
0.24	@STANFORD	41-17

GAME TO WATCH

0.31 California 14-24

If the Sun Devils are in the bowl hunt and Cal is in the Pac-10 title chase, this would be a huge game for both teams. The Golden Bears have dominated the series lately.

N.7	USC	0-28
N.14	@OREGON	20-54
N.21	@UCLA	34-9
N.28	Arizona	10-31

BOWL PROJECTION
» EMERALD BOWL

LOWER TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- New, untested quarterback.
- Major concerns about the running game.
- A tough schedule that includes a trip to Georgia.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Danny Sullivan (6-5, 238, Sr.)
RB	31	Dimitri Nance (5-10, 220, Sr.)
LOT	67	Shawn Lauvao (6-3, 305, Sr.)
LOG	59	Jon Hargis (6-4, 310, Jr.)
C	52	Garth Gerhart (6-1, 305, So.)
ROG	73	Zach Schlink (6-4, 330, So.)
ROT	74	Tom Njunge (6-5, 276, Sr.)
TE	84	Jovon Williams (6-4, 231, Jr.)
WR	5	Kerry Taylor (6-0, 191, Jr.)
WR	6	Kyle Williams (5-10, 185, Sr.)
WR	13	Chris McGaha (6-1, 193, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	34	James Brooks (6-4, 270, So.)
LDT	50	Lawrence Guy (6-5, 270, So.)
RDT	77	Saia Falahola (6-2, 310, Jr.)
RDE	58	Dexter Davis (6-2, 252, Sr.)
SLB	41	Shelly Lyons (6-2, 225, So.)
MLB	44	Travis Goethel (6-3, 233, Sr.)
WLB	25	Mike Nixon (6-3, 227, Sr.)
LCB	3	Omar Bolden (5-10, 194, Jr.)
RCB	5	Terell Carr (5-9, 180, Sr.)
FS	9	Clint Floyd (5-10, 180, So.)
SS	2	Ryan McFoy (6-2, 218, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	28	Thomas Weber (6-1, 205, Jr.)
P	28	Thomas Weber (6-1, 205, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
Pac-10: 4-5

Coach: Dennis Erickson
3rd year (15-10)
Career record: 163-75-1
Offensive coordinator:
Rich Olson (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Craig Bray (3rd year)

Stadium: Sun Devil Stadium (71,706)
Tickets: 480-727-0000
Site: Tempe
Official athletic Web site:
www.thesundevils.com

CHRIS McGAHA » WR

JAY DROWNS / SN

5-YEAR WINS TREND

Arizona State might seem like a tough program to read. In 2007, the Sun Devils did much better than expected during coach Dennis Erickson's first season. But last year ASU disappointed after being viewed as a BCS bowl contender.

This year, all bets are off, as the Sun Devils are the only ones who can predict their own fate. The Devils' fate depends on their ability to replace quarterback Rudy Carpenter, a four-year starter. Compared to the quarterback issues at Arizona and UCLA, Arizona State seems to be in decent shape. Danny Sullivan, a senior with 25 career appearances but no starts under center, enters training camp as the front-runner. Luckily, Sullivan has what any first-time starter would want—a veteran offensive line.

The anchor is left tackle Shawn Lauvao, an all-conference candidate. Jon Hargis can play either guard or tackle. At center the Devils have two options in returning starter Thomas Altieri and sophomore Garth Gerhart.

Sophomore Zach Schlink should handle one of the guard spots, while Tom Njunge is a decent bet for right tackle. Those six give ASU one of the most experienced offensive lines in the league.

And the Devils will need every ounce of that experience to jump-start an anemic rushing attack. ASU averaged just 89.1 yards per game on the ground last year and, even worse, scored just seven rushing touchdowns.

Rather than rely on a single superb talent, the Devils will probably rotate multiskilled threat Shaun DeWitty, power runners Dimitri Nance and Jarrell Woods and potential playmaker Ryan Bass.

If they succeed in creating the illusion of a balanced attack, then the receivers should flourish.

This year's pass catchers are a talented group, and their strength lies in their diversity. There's surehanded senior Chris McGaha, big-play threat Kyle Williams and hybrid Kerry Taylor.

In truth, the offense's greatest asset might be the Arizona State defense, which has improved in recent years. The unit allowed just 22.7 points per game last season and could be even better this fall.

The top talent is end Dexter Davis, the only active player in the nation to have recorded 10 sacks or more in each of the past two seasons. The Sun Devils must find a replacement for tackle David Smith and end Luis Vasquez, but there are more than enough pieces to form an adequate line.

The strength of the defense, other than Davis, is the back seven. The linebackers are experienced and athletic, especially Mike Nixon, who spent three years in the Los Angeles Dodgers' minor league system before arriving in Tempe.

He'll be joined by Travis Goethal, Shelly Lyons, Brandon Magee and Oliver Aaron, plus freshman Vontaze Burfict, the No. 1 linebacker recruit in the country.

THE NEXT BIG THING

VONTAZE BURFICT, LB

Eventually, the 245-pound freshman is going to be an impact player. The highly rated prep linebacker surprised many fans and recruiting analysts by picking the Sun Devils over USC. He's got a great chance to get on the field early and often in Tempe.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Vontaze Burfict
LB, 6-2, 244
The nation's No. 1 linebacker, he was a late switch from USC to Arizona State.

2 Corey Adams
DT, 6-3, 277
Adams was a must-get in-state prospect, and he was one of the premier pass-rushing tackles in the nation.

3 Osahon Irabor
CB, 5-10, 178
He blossomed as a senior and became one of the best players in California.

4 Brock Osweiler
QB, 6-8, 235
The early enrollee impressed in Arizona State's spring practices and appears to be the quarterback of the future.

5 Jamal Miles
RB, 5-10, 180
One of the top players in Arizona, Miles is good fit for Arizona State's offense.

7 STANFORD CARDINAL

Third-year coach Jim Harbaugh has returned the Cardinal to respectability. So, now it's a matter of winning that elusive sixth game and becoming bowl-eligible.

And that's possible with 16 returning starters, a count that includes running back Toby Gerhart, assuming he is not selected in this summer's Major League Baseball draft. Last year, the 237-pounder rushed for 1,136 yards and 15 touchdowns, and served as a pressure release for the quarterback.

If Gerhart comes back, he would open up the passing game for Andrew Luck, who threw five touchdowns in Stanford's spring game and is expected to win the starting job early in training camp. The son of former NFL quarterback Oliver Luck, he's the most gifted quarterback on The Farm since Trent Edwards.

A revamped offensive line must replace two all-conference players in center Alex Fletcher and tackle Ben Muth. The end result of spring shuffling was a starting five that included one redshirt freshman (guard David DeCastro) and three others in new positions.

There's a thin margin for error at receiver due to the lack of proven playmakers. Junior Ryan Whalen is the most reliable wideout, while junior Doug Baldwin and sophomore Chris Owusu have the speed to stretch defenses. Senior Richard Sherman spent the spring at both receiver and cornerback, as Harbaugh is experimenting with two-way players in an attempt to get the best players on the field as often as possible.

In addition to Sherman, Stanford might use fullback Owen Marecic as a middle linebacker. Receiver/running back Michael Thomas might start at cornerback, and linebacker Alex Debniak could spend time at running back, especially if Gerhart doesn't return.

Sherman looked good on both sides of the ball in the spring game, with eight tackles and two touchdowns. How he's used during the season depends on need. But if Sherman is focused and healthy, he gives Stanford an impact player at receiver.

Beyond the two-way players are several who changed positions from last season. Delano Howell, a former running back, is expected to start at strong safety alongside steady free safety Bo McNally. Of course, the movement of offensive skill players to the secondary says much about the Cardinal's poor existing options in the backfield. In addition to a hole at strong safety, Stanford needs two cornerbacks.

Ends Erik Lorig, Tom Keiser and Tom McAndrew combined for 12 sacks last season. Meanwhile, tackles Ekom Udofia, Matthew Masifilo and Sione Fua form an interior line that's the envy of most teams in the conference.

Stanford is in decent shape at linebacker with Clinton Snyder in the middle, but there are questions at both outside positions—the biggest being if Chike Amajoyi or Max Bergen can replace Pat Maynor on the weak side.

THE NEXT BIG THING

DAVID DeCASTRO, G

The Cardinal expect the redshirt-freshman guard to be a mainstay of their offensive line for years to come. The only question is whether the former top recruit from Bellevue, Wash., wil develop into a first-rate lineman this season or next year.

TOBY GERHART ▸ RB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@WASHINGTON STATE	58-0
S.12	@WAKE FOREST	
S.19	San Jose State	23-10
S.26	Washington	35-28
GAME TO WATCH		
0.3	UCLA	20-23

A must-win game for Stanford that precedes back-to-back road games at Oregon State and Arizona. A loss here would set the stage for a lengthy midseason skid that could knock the Cardinal out of the bowl picture.

0.10	@OREGON STATE	36-28
0.17	@ARIZONA	24-23
0.24	Arizona State	17-41
N.7	Oregon	28-35
N.14	@USC	23-45
N.21	California	16-37
N.28	Notre Dame	21-28

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

▸ The Cardinal has unproven quarterbacks and receivers and holes at both cornerback spots.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
Pac-10: 4-5

Coach: Jim Harbaugh
3rd year (9-15)
Career record: 9-15 (FBS)
Offensive coordinator:
David Shaw (3rd year)
Defensive coordinators:
Andy Buh (1st year)
Ron Lynn (2nd year)

Stadium: Stanford Stadium (50,000)
Tickets: 800-STANFORD
Site: Stanford, Calif.
Official athletic Web site:
www.gostanford.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

KEY

Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Andrew Luck (6-4, 241, So.)
FB	48	Owen Marecic (6-1, 241, Jr.)
RB	7	Toby Gerhart (6-1, 237, Sr.)
LOT	61	Matt Kopa (6-6, 297, Sr.)
LOG	71	Andrew Phillips (6-5, 294, Jr.)
C	72	Chase Beeler (6-3, 276, Jr.)
ROG	52	David DeCastro (6-5, 307, Fr.)
ROT	63	Chris Marinelli (6-7, 298, Sr.)
TE	83	Jim Dray (6-5, 253, Sr.)
WR	8	Ryan Whalen (6-2, 203, Jr.)
WR	89	Doug Baldwin (5-11, 189, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	94	Tom Keiser (6-5, 253, So.)
LDT	98	Matthew Masifilo (6-3, 264, So.)
RDT	54	Ekom Udofia (6-2, 322, Sr.)
RDE	80	Erik Lorig (6-4, 265, Sr.)
SLB	42	Will Powers (6-4, 244, Sr.)
MLB	20	Clinton Snyder (6-4, 231, Sr.)
WLB	43	Chike Amajoyi (6-0, 233, Jr.)
LCB	2	Corey Gatewood (5-11, 191, Jr.)
RCB	3	Michael Thomas (5-11, 188, So.)
FS	22	Bo McNally (6-0, 210, Sr.)
SS	26	Delano Howell (5-11, 195, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	18	Travis Golia (6-0, 192, So.)
P	38	David Green (6-1, 199, So.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 **Shayne Skov** *LB, 6-2, 235* One of the nation's top linebacker prospects, Skov should help the Cardinal immediately.

2 **Jemari Roberts** *WR, 6-3, 205* He developed into one of the nation's most consistent and surehanded receivers as a senior.

3 **Tyler Gaffney** *RB, 6-1, 215* A throwback "big running back," Gaffney can block and catch, and he is tough to stop between the tackles.

4 **Terrence Stephens** *DT, 6-2, 285* A physical force inside, Stephens was one of the most athletic defensive linemen in the East.

5 **Levine Toilolo** *TE, 6-8, 239* Toilolo was a tight end and defensive end in high school, but he could develop into a future franchise offensive tackle.

JAY DROWNS / SN

ARIZONA WILDCATS 8

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Central Michigan	
S.12	Northern Arizona	
S.19	@IOWA	
S.26	@OREGON STATE	17-19
O.10	@WASHINGTON	48-14
O.17	Stanford	23-24
O.24	UCLA	31-10
N.7	Washington State	59-28
N.14	@CALIFORNIA	42-27
N.21	Oregon	45-55
N.28	@ARIZONA STATE	31-10

GAME TO WATCH

D.5 @USC 10-17

The Wildcats end the season not against archrival Arizona State but in the Coliseum on national television. The stakes will be high (at least for the home team).

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- There is speed and skill at tailback and receiver.
- Quarterback is unproven.
- Staple is hard-charging defense.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	4	Matt Scott (6-3, 190, So.)
RB	5	Nic Grigsby (5-10, 190, Jr.)
RB	37	Chris Gronkowski (6-2, 235, Sr.)
LOT	67	Phillip Garcia (6-7, 325, Jr.)
LOG	74	Mike Diaz (6-5, 320, Sr.)
C	64	Colin Baxter (6-4, 295, Jr.)
ROG	70	Vaughn Dotsy (6-5, 355, So.)
ROT	78	Adam Grant (6-6, 325, Sr.)
TE	48	Rob Gronkowski (6-6, 265, Jr.)
WR	84	Terrell Turner (6-2, 190, Sr.)
WR	18	Delashaun Dean (6-4, 202, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	44	Ricky Elmore (6-5, 250, Jr.)
LDT	49	Earl Mitchell (6-2, 295, Sr.)
RDT	99	Kaniela Tuipulotu (6-2, 300, Jr.)
RDE	42	Brooks Reed (6-3, 255, Jr.)
SLB	52	Sterling Lewis (5-11, 225, Sr.)
MLB	8	Vuna Tuihalamaka (6-2, 230, Sr.)
WLB	15	Xavier Kelley (5-11, 215, Sr.)
LCB	6	Devin Ross (5-11, 175, Sr.)
RCB	24	Trevin Wade (5-11, 182, So.)
FS	20	Cam Nelson (6-1, 202, Sr.)
SS	1	Robert Golden (5-11, 190, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	14	Alex Zendejas (5-11, 190, So.)
P	47	Keenyn Crier (6-1, 200, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
Pac-10: 5-4
(beat BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl, 31-21)

Coach: Mike Stoops
6th year (25-36)
Career record: 25-36
Offensive coordinator:
Sonny Dykes (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Mark Stoops (6th year)

Stadium: Arizona Stadium (56,002)
Tickets: 800-452-CATS
Site: Tuscon
Official athletic Web site:
www.arizonaathletics.com

NIC GRIGSBY ▸ RB

GREGORY SHAMUS / GETTY IMAGES

5-YEAR WINS TREND

For the first summer in many years, the Arizona football program has momentum.

The Wildcats are coming off an eight-win season that featured their first bowl appearance since 1998. They had a quiet, injury-free spring and return seven starters on both offense and defense. And Arizona opens the season with two home games and several of the most talented players in the conference. This is a terrific chance to build on the offseason mojo before entering the meat of the schedule.

Given a few breaks and some decent play at quarterback, the Wildcats could finish in the upper half of the Pac-10. But there are some questions that need to be addressed.

Coach Mike Stoops has posted one winning season in five years on the job. Has he grown into a mature, stable coach? Or was '08 an aberration, with the Stoops of old—manic on the sideline, prone to terrible game management—poised to make a dramatic return? Only time will tell.

Replacing Willie Tuitama at quarterback will also be a hard task. The contenders are Nick Foles and Matt Scott. Last season, Scott attempted 11 passes, while Foles hasn't thrown the ball in a game. Spring practice provided no resolution to their duel, which could extend into September.

Left tackle Eben Britton, a first-team all-conference selection, also needs to be replaced.

But Arizona does have a few weapons in the offensive backfield, which is good news.

The top two tailbacks, Nic Grigsby and Keola Antolin (1,678 combined rushing yards last season), both return, as does Rob Gronkowski (10 TDs), one of the most talented tight ends in the nation.

And while the Wildcats lost their top receiver, Mike Thomas, they have the pieces to offset his departure with Terrell Turner, Delashaun Dean and William Wright, a 5-9 sophomore who's effective beating opponents' defensive backs.

On defense, the line has been a problem for the Wildcats for years, but with experience returning to the unit, there's a chance they could hold their own.

Without Tuitama, Thomas and Britton, it's not reasonable to expect the Wildcats to duplicate their 2008 averages of 36.6 points per game and 4,024 yards. But with a stingy defense, they won't need a repeat of last year's offensive numbers.

The defensive front has been mediocre for years but returns all four starters, including junior end Brooks Reed.

The 'Cats must find two new starters at linebacker to join Xavier Kelley. One of them figures to be senior Sterling Lewis, who started five games and had 59 tackles a year ago.

The Wildcats have produced talented defensive backs since the Dick Tomey era and this season is no exception.

Cornerback Devin Ross and free safety Cam Nelson are a first-rate combinaton. They'll lead an impressionable secondary that includes sophomores Trevin Wade (cornerback) and Robert Golden (strong safety).

THE NEXT BIG THING

BROOKS REED, DE

Reed could become one of the best-known defensive players in the conference by the end of this season. Last year, the 255-pound junior had one sack in the first six games and seven in the last seven matchups.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Adam Hall
ATH, 6-4, 195
Hall could play receiver or safety in college, but there's no question he'll be an impact player.

2 — Trevor Erno
LB, 6-0, 225
A hard-hitting true inside linebacker who fits Mike Stoops' style of defense.

3 — Daniel Jenkins
RB, 5-9, 171
A true all-purpose back, Jenkins is a perfect fit for the Wildcats' offense.

4 — Jonathan Hollins
DT, 6-3, 273
He's a junior-college transfer who should help fill a big need at defensive tackle.

5 — Jackson Powell
DE, 6-4, 215
Once he adds weight, Powell has a great shot at being a pass-rush threat.

9 WASHINGTON HUSKIES

Yes, Seattle, it will get better, but not before it gets worse. Washington begins its season against powerhouse LSU. A probable loss here, and the Huskies will tie the Pac-10 record for consecutive losses with 15.

But the losing streak, which began late in 2007, should end in Week 2, when Washington plays host to Idaho.

The question is: What happens after Idaho?

Will the Huskies make significant improvement under first-year coach Steve Sarkisian?

Or will they revert to old times and flounder through another forgettable fall?

It's hard to imagine the Huskies won't get better, given they went 0-12 last season and lost nine games by 20 points or more.

Sarkisian has several factors working in his favor as he lays the foundation for a turnaround.

First, the schedule is more manageable than it was in '07 and '08 because of Idaho. At least there's one nonconference creampuff on this year's slate.

Second, Sarkisian should benefit from some decent young talent. Tyrone Willingham did not recruit well in Seattle until his final year, when he landed a top-15 class. Those prospects will be sophomores and redshirt freshmen this fall, and some of them could be impact players.

Finally, quarterback Jake Locker is expected to be healthy after missing the final eight games of '08 with a broken thumb, which means Sarkisian has one of the most talented players in the conference at his disposal.

Sarkisian's ability to transform Locker into a passer and good quarterback is essential to Washington's prospects and to his own future in Seattle.

Locker won't develop if he doesn't stay healthy, which means he must be judicious with his scrambling, receive solid protection from his offensive line and get help from the receivers and running backs. Until the Huskies prove they have other options for moving the ball, defenses will stack up to stop Locker.

One option is tailback Chris Polk, who played in just two games last season because of a shoulder injury, but should be 100 percent for the opener. He's a threat as a runner and receiver.

Another option is Kavario Middleton, who was *Superprep's* fourth-ranked tight end in the prep class of '08. Middleton caught just 12 passes last year as a result of Locker's injury and the struggles of replacement Ronnie Fouch.

With Locker, Polk, Bronson, Middleton and wide receiver D'Andre Goodwin (60 receptions), the team has playmakers.

Overall, Sarkisian will do well to win four games, but to do that he needs to find production among his young defenders and answer the questions on offense.

Otherwise, the Huskies may end up falling on their face again, winning just one or two games this season—which is still an improvement from last year.

JAKE LOCKER ▷ QB

THE NEXT BIG THING

JAKE LOCKER, QB

Husky fans have been waiting three years for the junior quarterback to become a big thing. So far, he's been a "thing," showing flashes of brilliance while struggling with injuries and inconsistency. He has the potential to be the best quarterback in the conference.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	LSU	
S.12	Idaho	
S.19	USC	0-56
S.26	@STANFORD	28-35
O.3	@NOTRE DAME	7-33
O.10	**Arizona**	**14-48**
O.17	@ARIZONA STATE	19-39
O.24	Oregon	10-44
N.7	@UCLA	7-27
N.14	@OREGON STATE	13-34
N.28	Washington State	13-16 (OT)
D.5	California	7-48

GAME TO WATCH

If the Huskies don't take away a much-needed conference victory, their 2009 season could unravel the same as it did last year. A win is possible against Arizona.

PROFESSOR'S GRADE D

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Huskies have a difficult schedule.
- Holes on both lines and in the secondary.
- Dearth of elite players.

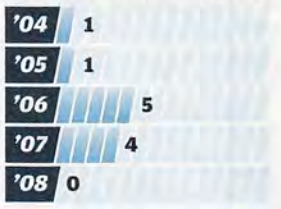
QUICK HITS

2008 record: 0-12
Pac-10: 0-9

Coach: Steve Sarkisian, 1st year
Offensive coordinator: Doug Nussmeier (1st year)
Defensive coordinator: Nick Holt (1st year)

Stadium: Husky Stadium (72,500)
Tickets: 206-543-2200
Site: Seattle
Official athletic Web site: www.gohuskies.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND



KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Jake Locker (6-3, 222, Jr.)
RB	1	Chris Polk (5-11, 200, r-Fr.)
LOT	71	Cody Habben (6-6, 316, Jr.)
LOG	70	Morgan Rosborough (6-6, 382, Sr.)
C	64	Matt Sedillo (6-3, 320, Jr.)
ROG	65	Ryan Tolar (6-5, 321, Jr.)
ROT	67	Skyler Fancher (6-5, 294, So.)
TE	80	Kavario Middleton (6-5, 255, So.)
WR	9	Devin Aguilar (6-0, 195, So.)
WR	11	D'Andre Goodwin (5-11, 175, Jr.)
WR	15	Jermaine Kearse (6-1, 180, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	66	Daniel Te'o-Nesheim (6-4, 263, Sr.)
LDT	74	Alameda Ta'amu (6-2, 348, So.)
RDT	93	Senio Kelemete (6-4, 260, So.)
RDE	59	Darrion Jones (6-2, 245, Sr.)
SLB	22	EJ Savannah (6-1, 210, Sr.)
MLB	9	Donald Butler (6-1, 242, Sr.)
WLB	40	Mason Foster (6-1, 229, Jr.)
LCB	28	Quinton Richardson (6-0, 200, So.)
RCB	20	Justin Glenn (5-11, 185, Fr.)
FS	34	Tripper Johnson (6-1, 210, Sr.)
SS	8	Nate Williams (6-0, 207, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	17	Erik Folk (5-11, 199, So.)
P	46	Andrew Lutton (6-2, 197, Jr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — David Batts
S, 6-2, 200
A late steal from Kansas State, Batts is the type of impact defender the Huskies have been missing for a while.

2 — Marlion Barnett
ATH, 6-2, 202
He could be used in a variety of roles, including as a tight end/H-back.

3 — Nathan Fellner
S, 6-0, 200
Fellner was a great steal out of northern California. He's a rangy safety with good coverage skills.

4 — James Johnson
ATH, 6-0, 183
One of the top players in San Diego, Johnson is a tremendous athlete who could play on either side of the ball.

5 — Desmond Trufant
CB, 6-0, 170
He has great bloodlines and is speedy with good hips. Trufant can really turn and run.

JAY DROWNS / SN

WASHINGTON STATE COUGARS 10

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	Stanford	0-58

If the Cougars are competitive in their opener, it should indicate major offseason improvement. If they get blown out—Stanford beat them 58-0 last year—then we could be looking at a repeat of '08.

S.12	HAWAII*	10-24
S.19	SMU	
S.26	@USC	0-69
O.3	@OREGON	14-63
O.10	Arizona State	0-31
O.24	@CALIFORNIA	3-66
O.31	Notre Dame**	
N.7	@ARIZONA	28-59
N.14	UCLA	3-28
N.21	OREGON STATE	13-66
N.28	@WASHINGTON	16-13 (OT)

** at Seattle, WA*
*** at San Antonio, TX*

PROFESSOR'S GRADE D-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- No proven quarterback.
- The lines are bad and possibly awful.
- Quality depth is severely lacking.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	9	Kevin Lopina (6-3, 234, Sr.)
RB	31	Dwight Tardy (5-10, 208, Sr.)
LOT	78	Steven Ayers (6-4, 315, So.)
LOG	54	Zack Williams (6-4, 293, Jr.)
C	69	Kenny Alfred (6-2, 300, Sr.)
ROG	72	B.J. Guerra (6-3, 311, So.)
ROT	67	Joe Eppele (6-8, 306, Jr.)
TE	43	Tony Thompson (6-2, 241, Sr.)
WR	2	Daniel Blackledge (6-1, 182, Jr.)
WR	29	Kevin Norrell (5-9, 199, So.)
WR	84	Jared Karstetter (6-4, 203, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	93	Kevin Kooyman (6-6, 246, Sr.)
LDT	90	Toby Turpin (6-4, 284, Jr.)
RDT	95	Bernard Wolfgramm (6-3, 288, Jr.)
RDE		Brandon Rankin (6-5, 260, Jr.)
SLB	45	Andy Mattingly (6-4, 255, Sr.)
MLB	43	Alex Hoffman-Ellis (6-1, 236, So.)
WLB	46	Louis Bland (5-10, 202, So.)
LCB	32	Devin Giles (6-0, 173, Sr.)
RCB	9	Tyrone Justin (5-11, 156, So.)
FS	21	Chima Nwachukwu (5-11, 201, Jr.)
SS	26	Xavier Hicks (6-0, 211, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	18	Nico Grasu (6-0, 221, Jr.)
P	8	Reid Forrest (6-0, 193, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 2-11
Pac-10: 1-8

Coach: Paul Wulff
2nd year (2-11)
Career record: 2-11
Offensive coordinator:
Todd Sturdy (2nd year)
Defensive coordinators:
Chris Ball (2nd year)
Jody Sears (2nd year)

Stadium: Martin Stadium (37,600)
Tickets: 800-GO-COUGS
Site: Pullman
Official athletic Web site:
www.wsucougars.com

JAY DROWNS / SN

5-YEAR WINS TREND

The phrase "comically bad" doesn't begin to describe the state of affairs at Washington State over the past year.

It cannot get much worse than a 2-11 season in which the Cougars' only FBS victory came against winless in-state rival Washington.

Or the fact that the team suffered quarterback injuries so severe the Cougars held public tryouts.

It was really bad when last year's team allowed 58 points or more six times, and 63 or more four times.

And to add insult to injury, second-year coach Paul Wulff is being haunted by charges regarding multiple NCAA violations at his previous school (Eastern Washington).

But all this bad news is good for Wulff, because it means expectations in Pullman are subterranean, and the slightest progress will satisfy the faithful.

"Last year was difficult for everyone," Wulff says. "At the same time, it was a learning experience and one we needed to go through as this program moves forward."

If quarterback Marshall Lobbestael, who was suspended from the team following an offseason arrest for possession of alcohol by a minor, isn't ready, then the Cougars might turn to senior Kevin Lopina, who threw no touchdowns and 11 interceptions in eight starts last year. Sophomore J.T. Levenseller, or even freshman Jeff Tuel, could get a look under center.

The options are better at tailback, where Dwight Tardy (481 yards in '08) returns and Cal transfer James Montgomery is now eligible. Montgomery's speed and talent represent significant upgrades in the backfield.

But his success depends on the Cougars improving their offensive line. Center Kenny Alfred is solid, but there are questions elsewhere.

In addition, Washington State must replace its best player in receiver Brandon Gibson, whose 57 receptions accounted for nearly one-third of the Cougars' total in 2008.

A no-huddle attack may keep defenses guessing.

"We believe the no-huddle is best for what we want to do," Wulff says. "After the injuries last year and with our youth, we had to get away from it [for the time]."

Despite problems on offense, the situation could be even worse on the other side of the ball.

The Cougars must replace five starters from one of the worst defenses in Pac-10 history. Last year, the unit allowed 443.4 yards and 43.8 points per game.

Though six starters return, their jobs not safe by any means. And there's a good chance Brandon Rankin, a four-star junior-college transfer, will break into the lineup at one end position. Sophomore linebacker Louis Bland also has potential to steal a starting spot in the fall.

"Everyone realizes it takes two or three years of gradual improvement to get where we need to be," Wulff says about having patience. "But saying that, we have made strides this offseason."

THE NEXT BIG THING

LOUIS BLAND, LB

Bland had three tackles for loss in the Apple Cup against Washington is one of the few bright spots defensively. By the time he's a junior, Bland could be an all-league candidate.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
Arthur Burns
RB, 5-10, 206
He was one of the top running backs in California's "Inland Empire." Burns should provide an immediate impact.

2
Jamal Atofau
S, 5-10, 175
He was a great in-state get for the Cougars. Atofau could play a number of spots in the secondary.

3
Anthony Carpenter
CB, 6-0, 171
He has the size and speed you want from a cornerback prospect.

4
Darren Markle
LB, 6-0, 227
Ignore that he's from Idaho, a state that rarely produces players, and pay attention to his ability to hit ballcarriers.

5
Gino Simone
ATH, 6-0, 176
He was one of the most underrated prospects in the Northwest. Simone doesn't have a natural position, but he is a playmaker.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

SEC

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

EAST

1 Florida
2 Georgia
3 South Carolina
4 Tennessee
5 Kentucky
6 Vanderbilt

WEST

1 Ole Miss
2 LSU
3 Alabama
4 Auburn
5 Arkansas
6 Mississippi State

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Trindon Holliday, LSU

Best Hands
Julio Jones, WR, Alabama

Best Passing QB
Jevan Snead, Ole Miss

Best Running QB
Tim Tebow, Florida

Most Elusive RB
Michael Smith, Arkansas

Best Instincts
Eric Norwood, LB, South Carolina

Best Athlete
Jeff Demps, RB, Florida

Best Under Pressure
Tim Tebow, QB, Florida

Top NFL Prospect
Carlos Dunlap, DE, Florida

Top Impact Freshman
Bryce Brown, RB, Tennessee

Hardest Hitter
Rennie Curran, LB, Georgia

Biggest Underachiever
Geno Atkins, DT, Georgia

Best Home-Field Advantage
LSU

Best Fans
Alabama

Best Mascot
Uga, Georgia

Best Stadium
Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, Florida

Conference's BCS future is so bright, it's going to need a pair of shades

By Jeremy Fowler, *Orlando Sentinel* (SEC East previews)
and **Ian Rapoport,** *Birmingham (Ala.) News* (SEC West previews)

While the Southeastern Conference feasts at the royal table of college football, outsiders are getting tired of eating the scraps below.

The other power conferences seem more determined than ever to thwart a potential SEC four-peat of national championships, which could happen if Florida follows through on its preseason No. 1 billing.

USC, Oklahoma and Texas might be proper challengers.

"People act as if the SEC is the end-all," Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio says. "I don't see it as that. Call it what you want."

Opposing coaches have good reason to be testy. In the SEC, teams can lose a game and reach the BCS National Championship with no problem, as long as they win the league title. The steady pipeline gives SEC commissioner Mike Slive no reason to want a college football playoff.

It's difficult to dispute the SEC's place in the college football landscape. Florida (2006 and 2008) and LSU (2003 and 2007), teams that comprise four of the last six national titles, won their last three BCS championship games by an average of 17 points. The SEC went 6-2 last postseason, and the conference has won more BCS bowls (12) than any other league.

The results may be the same this season. National favorite Florida, Georgia, Alabama, LSU and Ole Miss all have the potential to win 10 or more games in 2009.

And how's this for a future? Up to nine of the top 20 teams in the latest 2009 recruiting rankings hail from the SEC.

When the Gators talk this offseason about their next championship effort, they mention the SEC first.

"The SEC is our No. 1 goal," quarterback Tim Tebow says. "That's what we take the most pride in—winning the SEC. If we win that, we think we deserve to be in a big game."

No wonder Florida scheduled a cupcake nonconference schedule for '09. Most SEC coaches agree that surviving conference play suffices.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jamie Newberg, *Rivals.com*

1. ALABAMA The Tide surged with the top recruiting class for the second straight year, dominating in the Southeast.
2. LSU The Tigers signed a star-studded group of skill-position players and linemen.
3. GEORGIA Another super class, led by two quarterbacks, is headed to Athens. The Dawgs also added two elite wideouts.
4. TENNESSEE Lane Kiffin made a statement with his first class, nabbing the nation's top recruit, Bryce Brown.
5. FLORIDA The Gators didn't have big numbers, but they did well, especially at offensive line and linebacker.
6. SOUTH CAROLINA The Gamecocks were one of several SEC surprises, with impact players like Stephon Gilmore.
7. ARKANSAS Bobby Petrino, with his first full season to recruit, did well, as the Hogs signed a few big-time athletes.
8. OLE MISS The Rebels closed with the largest class in recent memory in the SEC—37 prospects overall.
9. AUBURN If the way Auburn closed on National Signing Day is any indication, the Tigers will be OK in the future.
10. MISSISSIPPI STATE Dan Mullen recruited well with a small window, loading up with receivers and a new quarterback.
11. KENTUCKY The Wildcats went to a dozen states to put together this class, and they also should get help from a few junior-college transfers.
12. VANDERBILT The Commodores signed a small class (17 prospects) led by a few good running backs.

ALL-SEC

OFFENSE

QB Tim Tebow, Sr., Florida
RB Charles Scott, Sr., LSU
RB Michael Smith, Sr., Arkansas
OL Ciron Black, Sr., LSU
OL John Jerry, Sr., Ole Miss
OL Maurkice Pouncey, Jr., Florida
OL Josh McNeil, Sr., Tennessee
OL Mike Johnson, Sr., Alabama
TE Aaron Hernandez, Jr., Florida
WR A.J. Green, So., Georgia
WR Julio Jones, So., Alabama

DEFENSE

DL Greg Hardy, Sr., Ole Miss
DL Ted Laurent, Jr., Ole Miss
DL Terrence Cody, Sr., Alabama
DL Carlos Dunlap, Jr., Florida
LB Brandon Spikes, Sr., Florida
LB Rennie Curran, Jr., Georgia
LB Rolando McClain, Jr., Alabama
DB Joe Haden, Jr., Florida
DB Eric Berry, Jr., Tennessee
DB Ahmad Black, Jr., Florida
DB Trevard Lindley, Sr., Kentucky

SPECIALISTS

K Joshua Shene, Sr., Ole Miss
P Chas Henry, Jr., Florida

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 Tim Tebow will become the best college football quarterback of all time. A second Heisman Trophy would strengthen his cause, but many thought he was robbed in last year's voting.

2 LSU will be back and better than Alabama. The Tigers will regain that nasty defensive streak that abandoned them in 2008, and top-shelf running back Charles Scott can still control the line of scrimmage behind a bulky offensive line.

3 Ole Miss will win at least 10 games. For all the heat Houston Nutt has taken over the years, the guy can still coach. He'll have no problem pumping out wins with 15 starters returning and a deep 2009 recruiting class.

4 Georgia won't miss Matthew Stafford. Good riddance to his 33 career interceptions in a Georgia uniform. New quarterback Joe Cox isn't going to win games by himself, but he won't hurt the Bulldogs like Stafford did.

ASCENDING

TENNESSEE Knock Lane Kiffin's mouth, but you can't knock his recruiting—a top-10 class with two of the country's best running backs headed to Knoxville. There's enough talent on the roster to improve on a 5-7 team that gave up on Phil Fulmer.

DESCENDING

SOUTH CAROLINA Steve Spurrier hasn't won more than eight games in each of his four seasons with the Gamecocks, and still has yet to develop a reliable quarterback or a semblance of an offensive attack. Losing three defensive leaders doesn't help, either.

In the World of Coach Ron Meyer, Good Enough is NOT Good Enough.

Only Perfect is Good Enough.

Like every coach worth his salt, I insist on getting IT RIGHT. That is why I ring up BIG numbers.

I track the progress of both college and NFL teams, their plusses and minuses. Where there's W's and $'s at stake, I don't want easy answers, just right ones. That's why we grade every team with a point system that tells at a glance if they measure up to their so-called **"power ratings."** Teams that rate higher than their ratings figure to play significantly better than expected and **we scale our bets accordingly.**

Last year we went **67-28-70.5%** overall. Our Games of the Year went **14-5** and my **20-Star Chalkboard Plays went 7-2.** We won high profile matchups like Florida over Oklahoma in the BCS championship and Cards plus over Steelers in the Super Bowl. But we also made money on sleeper teams that kept slipping under the radar like Georgia Tech, Mississippi, Rice, the Ravens and the Titans.

In case the name **Ron Meyer** doesn't ring a bell, I'm a **two-time AFC Coach of the Year** - with the Indianapolis Colts, then with the New England Patriots. I coached **Eric Dickerson** and **Craig James** in the legendary ***Pony Express*** at SMU. I came up under **Tom Landry** at Dallas and won myself a **Super Bowl Ring.** ***I know every important person in football and they know me.***

And they didn't load me up with honors because I look good with a chalkboard – **but because I knew how to make my players do things right.** And I am here to challenge you the way I challenged my players over the years: ***Are YOU doing things right?***

Are you WINNING? Are you spotting weak, inaccurate lines and taking all the edges? Do you know when a live dog is ready to pull off the upset? Do you know when a conference leader has been fattening up on creampuffs and is about to come up empty? ***Are you getting the money?***

If not – if you think you should be doing better – ***then come with me.***
I have the knowledge tools, the experience and the access to be your coach, personal mentor and selector I will show you the clues and the numbers. I'll tell you things 'cappers never told you because they don't know what coaches know!

Here's the deal. Join my team for the full season & receive my **Private Playbook** selections every Saturday and Sunday **PLUS** Mondays and Thursdays. **Note:** ***I will tell you what makes each pick special and why it's worth the units.*** You get this package for the get-acquainted fee of **only $195** and it **includes the entire Pre-Season of some 25-28 bettable games FREE.** Remember I'm an NFL insider: I know the game plan: *Who's out to win, who's only scrimmaging, how long the starters are playing, which game is the dress rehearsal etc.* ***I know when they're pressing the pedal and when they're easing back. That means a month of reliable winners that could bankroll your whole season!***

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– Expect at least ten of these **20-Star Blockbusters** over the course of the pre-and regular season.
And I personally sign off on each one!

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Now I want YOU to run your betting career at a Player-of-the-Year level!

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SEC EAST PRESEASON RANK

1 FLORIDA GATORS

TIM TEBOW ▸ QB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Charleston Southern	
S.12	Troy	
S.19	Tennessee	30-6
S.26	@KENTUCKY	63-5
GAME TO WATCH		
0.10	@LSU	51-21
0.17	Arkansas	38-7
0.24	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
0.31	Georgia*	49-10
N.7	Vanderbilt	42-14
N.14	@SOUTH CAROLINA	56-6
N.21	Florida International	
N.28	Florida State	45-15

Easily the toughest road game on a favorable schedule, the Tigers have a two-game winning streak over the Gators in Death Valley. This is the biggest obstacle in Florida's championship run.

* *at Jacksonville, FL*

BOWL PROJECTION BCS BOWL

» BCS CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ A+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Elite quarterback surrounds numerous playmakers.
- Every ball-hawking defensive starter returns.
- Too much leadership to get complacent.

With the ammunition returning to Gainesville this fall, the Florida Gators could roll out of bed an hour before kickoffs and go 10-2 in the regular season. Quarterback Tim Tebow has mastered the spread offense, the defense returns every starter from last year and most victories could be a yawn away.

"We know we're good," senior linebacker Brandon Spikes says.

Yet "good" would be a colossal disappointment for these Gators.

Good isn't just Pasadena, site of this year's BCS Championship Game. The Gators want more. They want to be remembered and celebrated as the first undefeated team in school history, and the third program since 1980 to repeat as champs.

Anything less will feel like unfinished work and, yes, a failure. Tebow didn't return for his senior season to go to the Outback Bowl. A second Heisman Trophy would pale in comparison to culminating his career with a title-game masterpiece in the Rose Bowl.

Spikes didn't shun the NFL to lose to Georgia in '09. He returned to captain a defense that forced 34 turnovers.

Title hopes hinge on Florida's ability to control expectations. Every practice must run deeper than an excuse to brag about last year's national championship.

"I'm a Gator fan, I wouldn't [be happy] either," says Tebow about anything less than a title in 2009. "That's why we're out here working."

Repeating is easy to talk about but can take months of preparation to make a reality. The title is Florida's to lose when its powerhouse lineup collides with a schedule it can barrel through. Translation: Don't blow it.

LSU is the only SEC West power Florida faces, though the Tigers have won two straight over the Gators at Death Valley. Breaking that streak will be the trickiest factor in Florida's run.

But the Sept. 19 home game against Tennessee could hand Lane Kiffin a 50-point loss after his verbal assault on the Gators this offseason.

Now couple that favorable schedule with a defense that held Oklahoma's prolific offense to 14 points last season and an offense that has averaged more than 42 points per game in each of the last two years. Domination could already be in the books.

Still, assistant coach Dan McCarney can't help but consider the logic that even the best thoroughbred teams failed to repeat as champions in the past.

"College football, basketball, NFL, NBA, pro baseball, pro hockey, you name it—it's tough to repeat," says McCarney,

KIM KLEMENT / US PRESSWIRE

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Tim Tebow	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	14	172.37	298-192-4	64.4	2746	30	196.1

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Tim Tebow	14	176	673	3.8	12	48.1

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Aaron Hernandez	12	34	381	11.2	5	31.8

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Brandon Spikes	13	52	41	93

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Carlos Dunlap	14	9.5	65

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Ahmad Black	7	191	27.3	2

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 13-1
SEC: 7-1
(beat Oklahoma in the BCS National Championship Game, 24-14)

Coach: Urban Meyer
5th year (44-9)
Career record: 83-17
Offensive coordinator:
Steve Addazio (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Charlie Strong (7th year)

Stadium: Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (88,548)
Tickets: 877-428-6742
Site: Gainesville
Official athletic Web site:
www.gatorzone.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Tim Tebow (6-3, 245, Sr.)
	12	John Brantley (6-3, 217, So.)
RB	2	Jeffery Demps (5-8, 183, So.)
	3	Chris Rainey (5-9, 175, So.)
LOT	57	Carl Johnson (6-5, 342, Jr.)
	71	Matt Patchan (6-6, 260, So.)
LOG	74	Maurice Hurt (6-2, 305, Jr.)
	66	James Wilson (6-5, 329, So.)
C	56	Maurkice Pouncey (6-5, 318, Jr.)
	50	Sam Robey (6-4, 291, So.)
ROG	55	Mike Pouncey (6-5, 320, Jr.)
	79	Corey Hobbs (6-3, 300, Jr.)
ROT	76	Marcus Gilbert (6-5, 320, Jr.)
	78	David Young (6-4, 303, Fr.)
TE	81	Aaron Hernandez (6-2, 250, Jr.)
	45	T.J. Pridemore (6-1, 241, So.)
WR	16	Carl Moore (6-3, 225, Sr.)
	7	Justin Williams (6-0, 205, Jr.)
WR	83	David Nelson (6-5, 212, Sr.)
	25	Brandon James (5-7, 185, Sr.)
WR	11	Riley Cooper (6-3, 215, Sr.)
	6	Deonte Thompson (6-0, 201, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	8	Carlos Dunlap (6-6, 290, Jr.)
	94	Justin Trattou (6-3, 264, Jr.)
LDT	90	Lawrence Marsh (6-4, 304, Jr.)
	6	Jaye Howard (6-3, 296, So.)
RDT	92	Terron Sanders (6-2, 309, Jr.)
	98	Troy Epps (6-0, 306, Jr.)
RDE	49	Jermaine Cunningham (6-3, 252, Sr.)
	44	Duke Lemmens (6-3, 260, Jr.)
SLB	16	AJ Jones (6-1, 226, Jr.)
	34	Lerentee McCray (6-2, 227, So.)
MLB	51	Brandon Spikes (6-3, 258, Sr.)
	26	Lorenzo Edwards (6-1, 236, Jr.)
WLB	41	Ryan Stamper (6-2, 235, Sr.)
	32	Dustin Doe (6-0, 231, Sr.)
LCB	29	Janoris Jenkins (5-11, 188, So.)
	4	Wondy Pierre-Louis (6-1, 185, Sr.)
RCB	5	Joe Haden (5-11, 190, Jr.)
	14	Markihe Anderson (5-9, 182, Sr.)
FS	21	Major Wright (6-0, 204, Jr.)
	10	Will Hill (6-1, 202, So.)
SS	35	Ahmad Black (5-9, 185, Jr.)
	20	Dorian Munroe (5-11, 205, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	38	Jonathan Phillips (5-10, 218, Sr.)
P	17	Chas Henry (6-3, 222, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	FLORIDA	OPP
SCORING	611	181
Points Per Game	43.6	12.9
FIRST DOWNS	306	234
Rushing	154	97
Passing	129	116
Penalty	23	21
RUSHING YARDAGE	3236	1476
Yards gained rushing	3469	1817
Yards lost rushing	233	341
Rushing Attempts	545	440
Average Per Rush	5.9	3.4
Average Per Game	231.1	105.4
TDs Rushing	42	9
PASSING YARDAGE	2995	2518
Att-Comp-Int	329-211-5	456-242-26
Average Per Pass	9.1	5.5
Average Per Catch	14.2	10.4
Average Per Game	213.9	179.9
TDs Passing	33	12
TOTAL OFFENSE	6231	3994
Total Plays	874	896
Average Per Play	7.1	4.5
Average Per Game	445.1	285.3
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	38-815	85-1906
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	42-592	14-78
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-527	5-60

TEAM STATISTICS	FLORIDA	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.4	22.4
PUNT RETURN AVG.	14.1	5.6
INT RETURN AVG.	20.3	12.0
FUMBLES-LOST	19-8	16-9
PENALTIES-YARDS	102-839	87-702
Average Per Game	59.9	50.1
PUNTS-YARDS	45-1952	73-2873
Average Per Punt	43.4	39.4
Net punt average	38.1	29.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:06	29:54
3RD-DOWN CONV.	83/161	63/192
3rd-Down Pct.	52%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/16	8/24
4th-Down Pct.	69%	33%
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-217	16-104
MISC YARDS	37	0
TDS SCORED	82	21
FG-ATTEMPTS	12-13	12-17
PAT-ATTEMPTS	81-82	17-20
ATTENDANCE	633807	299220
Games/Avg Per Game	7/90544	4/74805
Neutral Site Games		3/79670

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Florida	167	161	139	144	611
Opponent	20	38	64	59	181

who coaches the defensive line. "There's something that's missing through the decades where teams have such trouble repeating as world champions. Will they keep the hunger? Will they keep the intensity? Will our staff be as unified and hungry and as tough and as demanding? Time will tell. We think we will. Working for Urban Meyer, that's what we expect."

No factor could hinder Florida's championship run more than an unsuccessful attempt to replace Percy Harvin, arguably the most dynamic playmaker in Gators history.

Harvin's 1,304 all-purpose yards in 2008 almost eclipsed the 1,323 total from the Gators' top five returning receivers on this spring's roster—Aaron Hernandez, Deonte Thompson, Riley Cooper, Carl Moore and David Nelson.

Hernandez is firmly stitched in Florida's offensive plan as the SEC's best tight end. After that, it gets interesting. The returning wide receivers showed promise in spots last year but never exploded behind Harvin. Speedy running backs Jeffery Demps and Chris Rainey are the favorites to fill the wide receiver/running back hybrid, at least until incoming freshman Andre Debose steps on the field.

"It's going to take a bunch of people stepping up to replace someone like [Harvin]," Demps says. "I'm just one of those guys."

Harvin is one of four offensive starters Florida must replace in 2009, including receiver Louis Murphy and offensive tackles Jason Watkins and Phil Trautwein, who started a combined 59 games for Florida. Their values cannot be undersold, as Florida has no idea whether the tackle spots will be consistent in 2009. And a running quarterback needs good tackles.

Redshirt junior Marcus Gilbert emerged in spring practices as a starting tackle, and the Gators might move Carl Johnson, last year's starting guard, to the other tackle spot. The line must adjust to the Gators' recent tinkering of a no-huddle, I-formation package to add unpredictability to Meyer's spread offense.

Tebow wouldn't mind proving to scouts that he can run NFL-style plays with ease, but expect this plan to be shredded halfway through the season in favor of the old, reliable Tebow.

Any other criticisms would be a stretch. Even the backups could be stars elsewhere. The only enemies looming larger than LSU or Georgia might be themselves.

RECRUITING REPORT

The national champions didn't have a large class (16 commitments) but still put together an impressive group. Florida plugged the offensive line and linebacking corps with **Xavier Nixon, Jelani Jenkins** and **Jon Bostic**. Don't be surprised if Jenkins and Bostic both contribute as true freshmen. And the Gators snagged **Gary Brown**, one of the most athletic defensive tackles in the nation.

Wide receiver **Andre Debose** seems to be a perfect fit to replace Percy Harvin and will be counted on this fall. Two other players to keep an eye on offensively are running back **Mike Gillislee** and tight end **Desmond Parks**. Both players could be sleepers.

The Gators lost two big-time commitments—both to Tennessee—on National Signing Day in wide receiver Nu'Keese Richardson and cornerback Marsalis Teague. Florida also lost cornerback Greg Reid to Florida State.
—Jamie Newberg, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *CARLOS DUNLAP, DE*

Dunlap registered 9.5 sacks and a Defensive MVP award in the BCS National Championship Game last year—as a backup. Gators coaches think Dunlap can achieve more, assuming he puts in the work.

2 GEORGIA BULLDOGS

A.J. GREEN ▸ WR

TOP 25 PICK

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
S.12	South Carolina	14-7
S.19	@ARKANSAS	
S.26	Arizona State	27-10
0.3	LSU	52-38
0.10	@TENNESSEE	26-14
0.17	@VANDERBILT	24-14
GAME TO WATCH		
0.31	@FLORIDA*	10-49
N.7	Tennessee Tech	
N.14	Auburn	17-13
N.21	Kentucky	42-38
N.28	@GEORGIA TECH	42-45

Who are we kidding? This is always the game to watch for Georgia, which might have had a BCS national title by now if it wasn't for Florida. The Bulldogs won't lack motivation after last year's pounding by the Gators.

** at Jacksonville, FL*

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» CHICK-FIL-A BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- Stacked defensive and offensive lines.
- A.J. Green might be SEC's best receiver.
- Always better when not hyped in preseason.

Last season, the Georgia Bulldogs were defeated the moment they were branded with that preseason No. 1 label.

Hype isn't Georgia's style. Coach Mark Richt would prefer any sense of entitlement to leave his locker room, which is why this year's Bulldogs could be a more natural fit for the players and coaches.

Instead of trying to control the tide of expectations that whisked them away last season, the Bulldogs can build off what they have done best under Richt the last eight years—use perennial top-10 recruiting classes, physical defensive and offensive lines and a smart quarterback to manufacture wins.

They don't need quarterback Matthew Stafford and running back Knowshon Moreno to follow that blueprint.

"I think the media, whether we liked it or not, wanted to portray Stafford and Moreno as the team," says Richt, whose Bulldogs went 10-3 last year. "You couldn't talk about Georgia without talking about [Stafford] or Moreno. They are great players that garnered attention with their style of play, but now that those guys are gone, it's much more of a team situation here. They don't have the names to talk about."

Instead of sulking in the sorrows of losing those two first-round NFL draft picks, Richt is channeling his springy days from 2001. Quarterback Joe Cox, an efficient yet unspectacular senior who will replace Stafford, says Richt made it clear in spring practice that he was getting more involved with the players "as if it was his first year on the job."

Changes are obvious throughout the Georgia football complex and practice fields, Cox says. He's speaking frequently and teaching passionately throughout each practice.

And the leash has officially been tightened, down to every nuance. Leaving trash in the football facility is grounds for extra laps. In years past, seniors got at least one break during the offseason mat-drill program, a gruesome workout using wrestling mats and other obstacles. This year, no one left the mat for a second. Cox thinks Richt was sending a subtle signal to his seniors about leadership through those drills.

"We've had problems with guys getting in trouble and certain discipline issues that he's now put to a complete rest," says Cox, referring to 10 player arrests from January to October of 2008. "It's been the best offseason since I've been here. He's taking it upon himself to coach us a lot harder. There's something he's trying to spread through our team."

As if a coach with six double-digit-win seasons in seven years and two SEC titles needs to feel desperate. But for Richt, sometimes it's about accentuating the basics.

DALE ZANINE / US PRESSWIRE

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Joe Cox	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	3	201.89	15-11-0	73.3	151	2	50.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Caleb King	11	61	247	4.0	1	22.5

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
A.J. Green	13	56	963	17.2	8	74.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Rennie Curran	13	63	52	115

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Rennie Curran	13	3	27

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Reshad Jones	5	32	6.4	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 10-3
SEC: 6-2
(beat Michigan State in the Capital One Bowl, 24-12)

Coach: Mark Richt
9th year (82-22)
Career record: 82-22
Offensive coordinator:
Mike Bobo (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Willie Martinez (5th year)

Stadium: Sanford Stadium (92,746)
Tickets: 877-542-1231
Site: Athens
Official athletic Web site:
www.georgiadogs.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	14	Joe Cox (6-1, 210, Sr.)
	6	Logan Gray (6-2, 186, So.)
FB	49	Shaun Chapas (6-2, 244, Jr.)
	48	Fred Munzenmaier (6-2, 232, Jr.)
RB	30	Carlton Thomas (5-7, 170, r-Fr.)
	4	Caleb King (5-11, 212, So.)
LOT	77	Trinton Sturdivant (6-5, 293, Jr.)
	60	Clint Boling (6-5, 286, Jr.)
LOG	71	Cordy Glenn (6-5, 331, So.)
	70	A.J. Harmon (6-5, 327, Fr.)
C	61	Ben Jones (6-3, 304, So.)
	64	Dallas Lee (6-4, 305, Fr.)
ROG	54	Tanner Strickland (6-5, 327, So.)
	76	Ben Harden (6-3, 313, So.)
ROT	79	Justin Anderson (6-5, 338, So.)
	67	Jonathan Owens (6-4, 312, Fr.)
TE	81	Aron White (6-4, 225, So.)
	84	Bryce Ros (6-4, 242, Fr.)
WR	16	Kris Durham (6-5, 208, Sr.)
	12	Tavarres King (6-1, 176, Fr.)
WR	8	A.J. Green (6-4, 200, So.)
	82	Michael Moore (6-2, 200, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	58	Demarcus Dobbs (6-2, 282, Jr.)
	75	Kiante Tripp (6-6, 270, Jr.)
LDT	95	Jeff Owens (6-3, 306, Sr.)
	91	Kade Weston (6-5, 325, Sr.)
RDT	56	Geno Atkins (6-1, 287, Sr.)
	93	Brandon Wheeling (6-3, 277, Sr.)
RDE	42	Justin Houston (6-3, 264, So.)
	53	Jeremy Longo (6-3, 241, Fr.)
SLB	50	Darryl Gamble (6-2, 247, Sr.)
	39	Nick Williams (6-2, 207, Fr.)
MLB	51	Akeem Dent (6-2, 231, Jr.)
	44	Marcus Washington (6-0, 250, Sr.)
WLB	35	Rennie Curran (5-11, 228, Jr.)
	38	Marcus Dowtin (6-2, 226, Fr.)
LCB	23	Prince Miller (5-8, 196, Sr.)
	25	Vance Cuff (5-11, 172, Jr.)
RCB	2	Brandon Boykin (5-10, 176, So.)
	19	Sanders Commings (6-2, 210, Fr.)
FS	3	Bryan Evans (5-11, 194, Sr.)
	20	John Knox (6-2, 205, So.)
SS	9	Reshad Jones (6-2, 212, Jr.)
	31	Quintin Banks (6-2, 210, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	57	Blair Walsh (5-10, 183, So.)
P	13	Drew Butler (6-2, 202, So.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	GEORGIA	OPP
SCORING	409	319
Points Per Game	31.5	24.5
FIRST DOWNS	273	227
Rushing	95	83
Passing	163	109
Penalty	15	35
RUSHING YARDAGE	1928	1590
Yards gained rushing	2200	1910
Yards lost rushing	272	320
Rushing Attempts	426	439
Average Per Rush	4.5	3.6
Average Per Game	148.3	122.3
TDs Rushing	21	24
PASSING YARDAGE	3610	2466
Att-Comp-Int	400-246-10	377-210-11
Average Per Pass	9.0	6.5
Average Per Catch	14.7	11.7
Average Per Game	277.7	189.7
TDs Passing	27	17
TOTAL OFFENSE	5538	4056
Total Plays	826	816
Average Per Play	6.7	5.0
Average Per Game	426.0	312.0
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	51-1076	65-1408
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	24-422	17-121
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	11-203	10-286

TEAM STATISTICS	GEORGIA	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.1	21.7
PUNT RETURN AVG.	17.6	7.1
INT RETURN AVG.	18.5	28.6
FUMBLES-LOST	19-9	16-5
PENALTIES-YARDS	112-938	66-558
Average Per Game	72.2	42.9
PUNTS-YARDS	51-2175	68-2790
Average Per Punt	42.6	41.0
Net punt average	37.5	33.6
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:57	29:03
3RD-DOWN CONV.	66/157	62/175
3rd-Down Pct.	42%	35%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	6/13	9/22
4th-Down Pct.	46%	41%
SACKS BY-YARDS	24-186	17-126
MISC YARDS	0	19
TDS SCORED	52	42
FG-ATTEMPTS	15-23	9-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	50-50	36-37
ATTENDANCE	556476	407640
Games/Avg Per Game	6/92746	5/81528
Neutral Site Games		2/72165

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Georgia	72	127	94	116	409
Opponent	46	85	102	86	319

"The only chance we have is to play as a team," Richt says.

Talent hasn't departed Athens, even if questions abound with the departure of a combined nine starters on both sides of the ball.

Many of the losses can be compensated by a gain. Lose Stafford, return senior defensive tackle Jeff Owens from a torn ACL last year. Lose Moreno, but return redshirt sophomore offensive tackle Trinton Sturdivant, who also missed all of 2008 with torn knee ligaments.

Every starting offensive lineman returns in an effort to redeem last year's matador-style blocking performance, while Owens will team with Geno Atkins to form one of the most potent interior defensive lines in the country.

Georgia will replace Stafford's big arm with Cox's acumen. His transition will be aided by sophomore receiver A.J. Green, one of the best in the country.

Sophomore running back Caleb King has yet to show he's the player to replace Moreno, who amassed 2,734 career yards and 30 touchdowns in two years with the Bulldogs. Better suited for the job might be sophomore Richard Samuel or redshirt freshman Carlton Thomas.

Cornerback Asher Allen's departure to the NFL opens a spot for sophomore Brandon Boykin, who might pluck some interceptions with his 40-inch vertical leap.

Georgia always has the guns. A sense of urgency must match the talent in order to stave off defending national champion Florida, which clobbered the Bulldogs 49-10 last year.

By the way, that score is plastered all over the Georgia football complex, a loss that Cox calls "embarrassing" and something that makes you "sick to your stomach."

"Once we hit adversity, we didn't know how to respond," Cox says about last year. "We thought it just shouldn't have happened. I definitely think there's a different attitude this year as far as how we view ourselves and what we can do as a team instead of worrying about what everybody else's view of us is."

Still, Cox says the Bulldogs have a response to the critics who think Georgia can't handle winning a conference title without Stafford or Moreno, and it'll come on the field.

"We've taken a lot of those comments to heart," Cox says.

RECRUITING REPORT

Georgia always recruits well, and the Bulldogs did so again this year. It starts with the quarterbacks—**Aaron Murray** and **Zach Mettenberger.** Both players have great futures in Athens. Murray is one of the nation's best pure passers, while Mettenberger has good size and a big-time arm.

The Bulldogs landed a trio of elite wide receivers in **Marlon Brown, Orson Charles** and **Rantavious Wooten.** They won a major recruiting battle against Tennessee to steal Brown, who is from Memphis.

As always, Georgia did well on both lines of scrimmage with such prospects as **Austin Long, Chris Burnette, Dallas Lee, Abry Jones** and **Montez Robinson.** Defensively, Georgia is led by speedy **Branden Smith,** who was one of the top cover corners in the nation. **Shawn Williams** and **Jordan Love** are two other talented defensive backs headed to Georgia.

—Jamie Newberg, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *CARLTON THOMAS, RB*

The slippery redshirt freshman impressed this spring while Caleb King couldn't secure the starting tailback job and Richard Samuel missed time with a wrist injury. As long as he can take the pounding of SEC defenses, Thomas could be Georgia's next explosive situational guy.

3 SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS

The thought of Steve Spurrier as a middle-of-the-road Southeastern Conference coach still takes a couple of seconds to ingest.

Does that visor still come in a 1996 model?

The former sideline beast at Florida has gone from being "Head Ball Coach" to trying to avoid a looming six-loss season—again.

As if the 28-22 record the last four seasons wasn't enough, Spurrier must replace the top three playmakers on each side of the ball.

Football is beyond preserving a legacy for Spurrier, even though every 30-point loss might smudge that legacy a little each time.

Those seven SEC titles and a national championship during his 12 years at Florida shouldn't define his coaching career, he says. The way Spurrier sees it, everything hinges on whether he can vault himself out of Gamecock mediocrity.

"If we win some close games here and win a championship, I'll have a great legacy," Spurrier says. "How about that?"

Spurrier's offenses at South Carolina have regressed as much as his golf game has improved—and he's pretty good.

The Gamecocks finished last in the conference in rushing offense and eighth in scoring last year with 20.8 points per game, a struggle punctuated by a 31-10 loss to Iowa in the Outback Bowl.

The defense has never had problems making plays, but the losses of cornerback Captain Munnerlyn, safety Emanuel Cook and linebacker Jasper Brinkley hurt. All-SEC linebacker Eric Norwood's workload just doubled for 2009.

After encouraging offensive progress during April, Spurrier left the spring game disappointed with the performance. Spurrier is back to calling the plays after juggling last year's duties with his son, Steve Spurrier Jr., who's now the receivers coach.

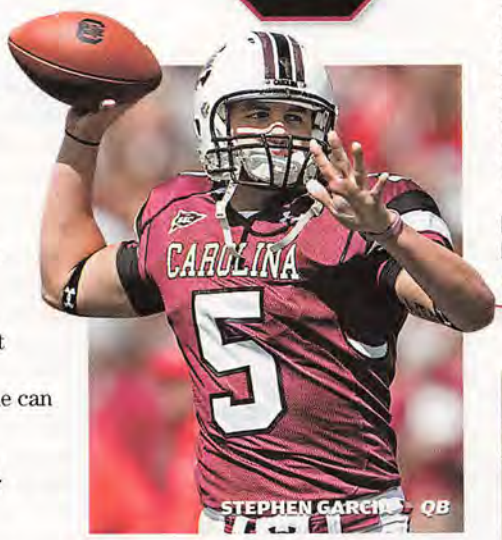
"Hopefully we made some progress with our team," says Spurrier, who hasn't won more than eight games in a season at South Carolina. "We'll find out when we open the season."

The Gamecocks are being delicate with redshirt sophomore Stephen Garcia, who just endured his first full spring practice after a tumultuous early career. Garcia was Spurrier's first big-time quarterback recruit at the school, but rampant legal trouble prompted the ball coach to suspend Garcia three times in his short collegiate career.

Now the Gamecocks' program is in his hands. That notion might be scary to some fans, but maybe he can get the job done. This offseason, South Carolina hired quarterbacks coach G.A. Mangus to mold Garcia into an SEC-caliber quarterback.

"He's still got a ways to go," says Spurrier of Garcia.

"This is the first spring that he went through all 15 practices. Hopefully he will be much much more prepared this season. Stephen has a lot of ability; he has to learn how to use it and make good decisions back there."



STEPHEN GARCIA - QB

THE NEXT BIG THING

MOE BROWN, WR

The senior has shown his deep-threat ability in practice, but his longest reception last season was 34 yards. With Kenny McKinley graduated, expect Brown to fill an expanded role.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
SEC: 4-4
(lost to Iowa in the Outback Bowl, 31-10)

Coach: Steve Spurrier
5th year (28-22)
Career record: 170-62-2
Offensive coordinator:
Steve Spurrier (5th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Lorenzo Ward (1st year)

Stadium: Williams-Brice Stadium (80,250)
Tickets: 800-472-3267
Site: Columbia
Official athletic Web site:
www.uscsports.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.3	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	34-0

GAME TO WATCH

S.12 @GEORGIA 7-14

The Gamecocks need to make an SEC splash early, and they almost had the Bulldogs in last year's 14-7 loss. Georgia could be vulnerable while adjusting to new quarterback Joe Cox.

S.19	Florida Atlantic	
S.24	Ole Miss	31-24
O.3	South Carolina State	
O.10	Kentucky	24-17
O.17	@ALABAMA	
O.24	Vanderbilt	17-24
O.31	@TENNESSEE	27-6
N.7	@ARKANSAS	34-21
N.14	Florida	6-56
N.28	Clemson	14-31

BOWL PROJECTION
» MUSIC CITY BOWL
MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Offense has lost confidence over the years.
» Top three players gone from each side of the ball.
» Wild-card quarterback who could turn program around.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	5	Stephen Garcia (6-2, 219, r-So.)
FB	47	Patrick DiMarco (6-0, 243, Jr.)
RB	28	Eric Baker (5-11, 194, So.)
LOT	76	Jarriel King (6-5, 312, Jr.)
LOG	57	Lemuel Jeanpierre (6-4, 294, Sr.)
C	70	Garrett Anderson (6-4, 307, Sr.)
ROG	60	Terrence Campbell (6-3, 290, Jr.)
ROT	72	Quintin Richardson (6-3, 283, So.)
TE	88	Weslye Saunders (6-5, 280, Jr.)
WR	4	Jason Barnes (6-4, 199, So.)
WR	9	Moe Brown (6-0, 183, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	96	Clifton Geathers (6-8, 281, Jr.)
LDT	95	Nathan Pepper (6-1, 300, Sr.)
RDT	91	Ladi Ajiboye (6-1, 285, Jr.)
RDE	83	Cliff Matthews (6-4, 249, Jr.)
SLB	4	Alonzo Winfield (6-0, 222, So.)
MLB	45	Rodney Paulk (6-0, 216, Jr.)
WLB	40	Eric Norwood (6-1, 252, Sr.)
LCB	7	Addison Williams (5-8, 177, Jr.)
RCB	3	Akeem Auguste (5-10, 180, So.)
FS	17	Chris Culliver (6-0, 190, Jr.)
SS	24	Darian Stewart (5-11, 216, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	34	Spencer Lanning (5-11, 188, Jr.)
P	34	Spencer Lanning (5-11, 188, Jr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Stephon Gilmore
ATH, 6-1, 180
Gilmore is a two-way star and a great athlete. He is expected to make a big impact at cornerback.

2 Jarvis Giles
RB, 5-11, 175
Giles is an explosive running back, which is what Steve Spurrier's offense needs in Columbia.

3 DeVonte Holloman
LB, 6-2, 214
Holloman is a versatile prospect who will likely begin at safety and grow into a linebacker.

4 Alshon Jeffery
WR, 6-3, 214
The Gamecocks beat out USC and Tennessee for this physical wide-receiver prospect.

5 Damario Jeffery
ATH, 6-3, 215
Jeffery is another athlete who could play a variety of positions on either side of the ball.

BOB LEVERONE

TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS 4

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Western Kentucky	
S.12	UCLA	24-27 (OT)
GAME TO WATCH		
S.19	**@FLORIDA**	**6-30**
After Lane Kiffin's false accusation of Florida's recruiting violations and his prediction that Tennessee will beat the Gators, Florida wants to win by 50. The Vols might need to worry about saving face.		
S.26	Ohio	
0.3	Auburn	12-14
0.10	Georgia	14-26
0.24	@ALABAMA	9-29
0.31	South Carolina	6-27
N.7	Memphis	
N.14	@OLE MISS	
N.21	Vanderbilt	20-10
N.28	@KENTUCKY	28-10

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» LIBERTY BOWL

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
SEC: 3-5

Coach: Lane Kiffin, 1st year
Offensive coordinator: Jim Chaney (1st year)
Defensive coordinator: Monte Kiffin (1st year)

Stadium: Neyland Stadium (102,038)
Tickets: 800-332-VOLS
Site: Knoxville
Official athletic Web site: www.utsports.com

Lane Kiffin's assault on the SEC began with a jab against Florida at his first press conference, where he said he'll be "singing Rocky Top all night long" after beating the Gators. Then he got trigger-happy.

Here's a recap of how the first-year coach made enemies in his first four months on the job:

1. Tried to hire assistants from SEC schools, succeeding in nabbing Alabama's Lance Thompson, South Carolina's David Reaves and Mississippi State's Frank Wilson.

2. Accused Florida coach Urban Meyer of an NCAA recruiting violation regarding the Gators' oral commitment with eventual Tennessee signee Nu'Keese Richardson. Meyer was cleared and Kiffin had to apologize.

3. Broke two NCAA secondary violations for his own questionable recruiting practices.

4. Insulted the University of South Carolina after reportedly telling a Columbia-bound recruit that he will be "pumping gas for the rest of his life like all the other players from that state who had gone to South Carolina."

Many say Kiffin's approach is too sophomoric to belong in the high-profile college ranks. To Kiffin, he's doing what's necessary.

After Tennessee endured its worst season in more than 30 years in 2008, Kiffin has the arduous task of changing the culture as Phil Fulmer's replacement. Change doesn't bother Kiffin, who has injected life in Knoxville.

"There were three people we felt we had to reach," Kiffin says. "The fan base, the state of Tennessee, getting them excited, and we feel that we've done that. Second was the current players; we knew the staff had confidence in them and would drive them to work extremely hard. Third were the recruits. We wanted to make sure recruits are seeing the team and being familiar with Tennessee."

Recruits have noticed. Kiffin and recruiting closer Ed Orgeron knocked out a top-10 class in 2009, highlighted by running backs Bryce Brown and David Oku and playmakers Richardson and Marsalis Teague. All four might contribute this fall, especially with tailback Arian Foster gone.

With 14 starters returning from a bad team, Tennessee has to decide if that's a good thing. But returning All-SEC pick Eric Berry is great. He's the best safety in the conference.

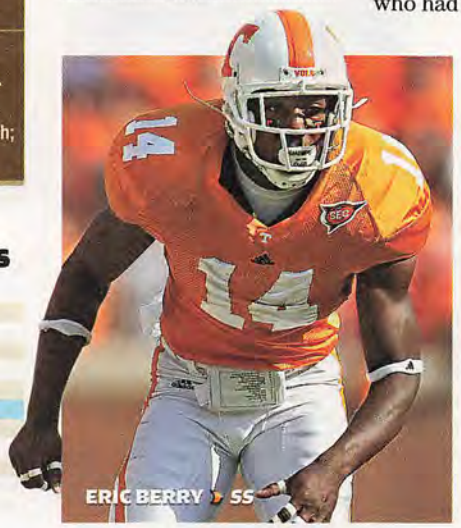
Seven starters return from an offense that looked sickly last year with quarterback Jonathan Crompton running things.

Starting fresh might be the best option for Tennessee's long-term success. Maybe Crompton will patch together one efficient season. Kiffin says he was pleased with Crompton's spring after sophomores Nick Stephens and B.J. Coleman didn't apply enough pressure on the job.

"He's really been very competitive in his approach to the position," Kiffin says. "He's done a great job running our offense."

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Aggressive, ball-hawking defense.
- Killer recruiting class coming in.
- Excitement surrounding new coach; vast changes.


ERIC BERRY » SS

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	8	Jonathan Crompton (6-4, 228, Sr.)
FB	45	Kevin Cooper (6-0, 247, Jr.)
RB	2	Montario Hardesty (6-0, 212, Sr.)
LOT	79	Chris Scott (6-5, 346, Sr.)
LOG	51	Vladimir Richard (6-4, 300, Sr.)
C	50	Josh McNeil (6-4, 280, Sr.)
ROG	65	Jacques McClendon (6-3, 324, Sr.)
ROT	74	Jarrod Shaw (6-4, 332, Jr.)
TE	80	Jeff Cottam (6-8, 260, Sr.)
WR	87	Quintin Hancock (6-3, 207, Sr.)
WR	4	Gerald Jones (6-0, 199, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	99	Ben Martin (6-3, 239, Jr.)
LDT	94	Wes Brown (6-4, 257, Sr.)
RDT	55	Dan Williams (6-3, 327, Sr.)
RDE	84	Chris Walker (6-3, 232, Jr.)
SLB	42	LaMarcus Thompson (6-1, 221, Jr.)
MLB	56	Nick Reveiz (5-11, 220, Jr.)
WLB	5	Rico McCoy (6-1, 220, Sr.)
LCB	13	Brent Vinson (6-0, 201, Jr.)
RCB	25	Art Evans (6-1, 173, So.)
FS	29	Stephaun Raines (5-10, 179, So.)
SS	14	Eric Berry (5-11, 203, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	26	Daniel Lincoln (6-0, 203, Jr.)
P	96	Chad Cunningham (6-3, 198, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

5-YEAR WINS TREND

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Bryce Brown
RB, 6-0, 215
Brown was the nation's top prospect. He can do it all at running back, and his impact should be felt in Knoxville immediately.

2 — Janzen Jackson
CB, 6-0, 174
The Vols landed Jackson the day after National Signing Day, beating LSU for this five-star prospect. He can play corner or safety.

3 — Nu'Keese Richardson
WR, 5-8, 151
Tennessee needs speed and quickness on the perimeter, and that's what Richardson brings to the table.

4 — Montori Hughes
DT, 6-5, 280
Hughes signed with Tennessee last year but failed to qualify academically. He's back in Knoxville and was the talk of spring ball.

5 — Darren Myles
S, 6-0, 175
Myles, like Janzen Jackson, will have a chance to make a quick impact on Tennessee's defense at free safety.

THE NEXT BIG THING

BRYCE BROWN, RB

The Vols scooped up the nation's best tailback recruit after a confusing process that included a "mentor" calling the shots. He'll make an immediate impact with his speed and size.

JOE ROBBINS

5 KENTUCKY WILDCATS

The Kentucky Wildcats have implemented that trendy package on offense that's sweeping the nation. "We're going to call it the Wildcat package," coach Rich Brooks says. Original.

At least Kentucky is trying to recapture the offensive magic of the Andre Woodson era rather than last season's attempt to run away from it.

Somehow Kentucky keeps crawling its way into bowl games, but in years past a good passing attack was what got the Wildcats there. Last year's squad wasn't great at anything, save timely playmaking on defense and blocking on offense.

And to think this team was ranked No. 7 in the nation two years ago. Yes, we're talking about Kentucky football.

Now there's nowhere for the Wildcats' offense to go but up, and the defense must play superb for the program to reach bowl contention in 2009.

"Offensively, there isn't any question in my mind we'll be better than last year," Brooks says. "We have a chance to do something that hasn't been done in a long time."

Win maybe three SEC games and handle its easy nonconference schedule and Kentucky will vault into its fourth straight bowl game. But this year's lineup suggests merit won't be enough.

Kentucky caught a break when defensive end Jeremy Jarmon and cornerback Trevard Lindley spurned the NFL to return for their senior years. Couple that duo with linebacker Micah Johnson and Kentucky has some good defensive leaders.

The Wildcats won't cause SEC havoc by leaning on one particular offensive unit. Collectively, this offense can be effective, but true difference-makers are scarce. Quarterback Mike Hartline can be decent but not heroic, while the wide receivers are still unproven and the running backs have injury issues. Most promising might be the three returning offensive linemen who gave up a league-low 13 sacks last year.

The key will be limiting mistakes, something Kentucky does well under Brooks. That's how a team survives in the SEC without top-shelf recruiting classes. Now that Hartline went through spring ball as the starter, his maturation must take off.

Kentucky wants to define a role for Randall Cobb after he platooned at quarterback last year. Cobb might run the Wildcat package, along with some wide-receiver sets. And don't forget about incoming freshman QBs Morgan Newton and Ryan Mossakowski, either of whom could snag a job in preseason workouts. Both players will get a "hard look," Brooks says.

Alfonso Smith might emerge as an every-down running back while Derrick Locke recovers from a knee injury. Neither player has rewritten Kentucky's record books, but they might coalesce nicely as a tandem.

If all else fails, Kentucky should consider getting Lindley the ball on some offensive packages. He's the team's best player and possibly the conference's best corner, possessing enough talent to surprise Brooks by his return after being a viable NFL option.

THE NEXT BIG THING

ALFONSO SMITH, RB

After playing in the shadows of Rafael Little and Tony Dixon, the explosive Smith should get significant carries this year. But he's never been asked to produce every week until now.

TREVARD LINDLEY » CB

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
SEC: 2-6
(beat East Carolina in the Liberty Bowl, 25-19)

Coach: Rich Brooks
7th year (32-41)
Career record: 123-150-4
Offensive coordinator:
Joker Phillips (5th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Steve Brown (3rd year)

Stadium: Commonwealth Stadium (67,606)
Tickets: 800-928-2287
Site: Lexington
Official athletic Web site:
www.ukathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@MIAMI (OH)*	
S.19	Louisville	27-2
S.26	Florida	5-63

GAME TO WATCH

0.3 Alabama **14-17**

A solid performance against this SEC heavyweight could provide confidence for the next two road games at South Carolina and Auburn.

0.10	@SOUTH CAROLINA	17-24
0.17	@AUBURN	
0.24	Louisiana-Monroe	
0.31	Mississippi State	14-13
N.7	Eastern Kentucky	
N.14	@VANDERBILT	24-31
N.21	@GEORGIA	38-42
N.28	Tennessee	10-28

** at Cincinnati, OH*

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» PAPAJOHNS.COM BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Needs to regain offensive prowess.
- Defensive leadership abounds.
- Hungry for fourth straight bowl game.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	5	Mike Hartline (6-6, 204, Jr.)
FB	38	John Conner (5-11, 240, Sr.)
RB	29	Alfonso Smith (6-1, 204, Sr.)
LOT	72	Zipp Duncan (6-5, 285, Sr.)
LOG	70	Stuart Hines (6-4, 295, So.)
C	61	Jorge Gonzalez (6-3, 305, Sr.)
ROG	63	Jake Lanefski (6-4, 286, So.)
ROT	75	Brad Durham (6-4, 310, Jr.)
TE	80	TC Drake (6-6, 242, Sr.)
WR	17	EJ Adams (6-0, 197, Sr.)
WR	81	Kyrus Lanxter (6-2, 195, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	99	Jeremy Jarmon (6-3, 279, Sr.)
LDT	91	Corey Peters (6-3, 295, Sr.)
RDT	53	Ricky Lumpkin (6-4, 294, Jr.)
RDE	66	Chandler Burden (6-4, 294, So.)
SLB	57	Jacob Dufrene (6-1, 220, Jr.)
MLB	4	Micah Johnson (6-2, 256, Sr.)
WLB	50	Sam Maxwell (6-3, 244, Sr.)
LCB	32	Trevard Lindley (6-0, 175, Sr.)
RCB	24	Randall Burden (6-0, 170, So.)
FS	33	Calvin Harrison (6-1, 205, Sr.)
SS	10	Matt Lentz (6-3, 209, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	36	Lones Seiber (5-9, 195, Sr.)
P	9	Ryan Tydlacka (6-1, 202, So.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Mark Crawford
DT, 6-1, 290
Crawford came to Lexington via junior college, and he has already made an impact during spring drills.

2 Donald Russell
RB, 5-11, 205
Russell, who has good speed, will give the Wildcats a versatile threat in the backfield.

3 Chris Matthews
WR, 6-5, 210
This junior-college product caught 80 balls for more than 1,200 yards at Los Angeles Harbor College last year.

4 DeQuin Evans
DE, 6-2, 260
Evans is another junior-college transfer who will have a chance to impact the Kentucky defense immedately.

5 Morgan Newton
QB, 6-4, 220
Newton is a big quarterback prospect with solid athletic ability and a good arm.

JOE ROBBINS

VANDERBILT COMMODORES 6

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Western Carolina	
S.12	@LSU	
S.19	Mississippi State	14-17
S.26	@RICE	38-21
O.3	Ole Miss	23-17
O.10	@ARMY	
O.17	Georgia	14-24
O.24	@SOUTH CAROLINA	24-17
O.31	Georgia Tech	
N.7	@FLORIDA	14-42
GAME TO WATCH		
N.14	Kentucky	31-24
N.21	@TENNESSEE	10-20

The Commodores are notorious for fizzling late in the season. If they want a second straight bowl game, they'll need an SEC win in the second half of the year. Kentucky's a winnable game, especially at home.

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

- One of conference's most disciplined teams.
- Offense needs more playmakers.
- Secondary creates havoc.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Larry Smith (6-2, 215, So.)
RB	31	Jared Hawkins (5-10, 195, Sr.)
LOT	68	Reilly Lauer (6-6, 275, Jr.)
LOG	72	Kyle Fischer (6-6, 300, So.)
C	60	Bradley Vierling (6-3, 294, Sr.)
ROG	66	Eric Hensley (6-6, 315, Sr.)
ROT	76	Thomas Welch (6-7, 310, Sr.)
TE	87	Brandon Barden (6-5, 245, So.)
WR	80	Justin Wheeler (6-1, 180, Sr.)
WR	23	Udom Umoh (5-11, 172, So.)
WR	4	Alex Washington (5-10, 182, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	96	Steven Stone (6-5, 272, Sr.)
LDT	56	Greg Billinger (6-3, 287, Sr.)
RDT	59	Adam Smotherman (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RDE	89	Teriall Brannon (6-3, 242, Jr.)
SLB	49	John Stokes (6-5, 228, Jr.)
MLB	13	Chris Marve (6-0, 228, So.)
WLB	30	Patrick Benoist (6-0, 224, Sr.)
LCB	19	Casey Hayward (6-0, 178, So.)
RCB	5	Myron Lewis (6-3, 205, Sr.)
FS	38	Sean Richardson (6-2, 198, So.)
SS	2	Ryan Hamilton (6-2, 208, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	94	Ryan Fowler (5-10, 165, Fr.)
P	39	Brett Upson (5-11, 188, Sr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
SEC: 4-4
(beat Boston College in the Music City Bowl, 16-14)

Coach: Bobby Johnson
8th Year (27-56)
Career record: 27-56 (FBS)
Offensive coordinator:
Ted Cain (8th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Jamie Bryant (2nd year)

Stadium: Vanderbilt Stadium (39,790)
Tickets: 877-44-VANDY
Site: Nashville, Tenn.
Official athletic Web site:
www.vucommodores.com

DON MCPEAK / US PRESSWIRE

5-YEAR WINS TREND

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Mason Johnston
TE, 6-4, 235
Johnston is a versatile tight-end prospect from one of the top programs in the state of Florida.

2 — Eric Samuels
ATH, 6-0, 187
Samuels, who has terrific speed, can play running back, receiver or in the secondary.

3 — Brady Brown
WR, 6-5, 195
Productive and surehanded, Brown totaled 170 receptions for more than 2,000 yards as a junior and senior.

4 — Wesley Johnson
OL, 6-5, 248
Johnson is a talented offensive-line prospect who should develop into a good player for Vanderbilt.

5 — Trey Wilson
DB, 5-10, 178
Wilson is an underrated defensive back from Louisiana who could play either safety or cornerback in Nashville.

For the past decade, experts have describe Vanderbilt as "well-coached," as if the statement was a consolation for years of underwhelming performances.

Don't laugh. Vanderbilt really is just that well-coached. Never has 7-6 been so celebrated in the SEC after the 2008 Commodores won their first bowl game in 53 years.

All those five-win seasons were just one big tease, as Vanderbilt started hot and fizzled late in past years, including that 4-0 start in 2005 that finished up at 5-6.

Now the program moves into the role of demanding respect.

"Maybe there was a theory that there's the SEC and then there's Vanderbilt," says Florida coach Urban Meyer, who almost lost to Vandy in a double-overtime game in 2005. "That's certainly not the case now. On the national level, maybe there's more respect for Vanderbilt there."

It's easy to say why Vanderbilt will be better this year with 19 returning starters, but better requires winning eight games. And teams that win eight or more games in the SEC typically have top-shelf recruits, the type of players that don't flock to Nashville. So the Commodores' fate lies in whether discipline, hard work and experience can trump raw talent.

Overall, this team is equal to the 2008 squad. The starters are more seasoned, but something has to offset the loss of D.J. Moore, an All-SEC cornerback who also made his presence felt on offense.

Cornerback Myron Lewis and linebacker Patrick Benoist lead a defense that toes the line between making big plays and limiting mistakes. That defense probably won Vanderbilt four games last year and should rank in the SEC's top five in 2009.

The big-name recruits might come in the future, but for now Vanderbilt needs to thrive on the energy surrounding the program. Commodore fans can say their football program is in better shape than in-state foe Tennessee Volunteers for once.

"There's definitely momentum in talking to recruits, potential donors, ticket-buyers, all throughout the program," coach Bobby Johnson says. "That was the next step we needed to take. Not only to go to a bowl, but to win it. It's paying off with the response we're getting from recruits."

Until that happens, the defense will try to keep Vanderbilt in games. But eventually playmakers must emerge, before the defense gives out, as the Commodores lack a gamebreaker. Wide receiver Justin Wheeler is explosive but isn't used to starting. Running back Jared Hawkins is consistent but unspectacular and tight end Brandon Barden isn't fast.

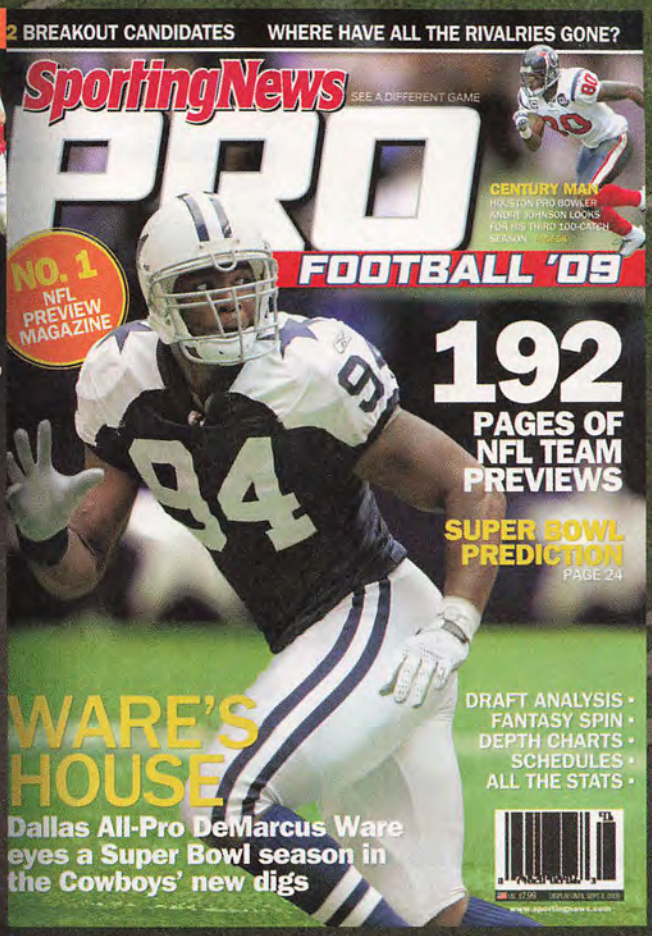
Coaches have high hopes for sophomore quarterback Larry Smith, who took over for Mackenzi Adams for the final two games last year. Smith looked strong during the spring, but Adams will battle him into the fall.

Whoever starts under center has a big job to do, but Vanderbilt should at least be able to duplicate last year's performance.

THE NEXT BIG THING

BRANDON BARDEN, TE

Barden caught 28 passes for 209 yards as a freshman in a low-watt Vanderbilt offense. That's like catching 40 balls for Florida. Expect Barden to be a favorite target for projected starter Larry Smith.



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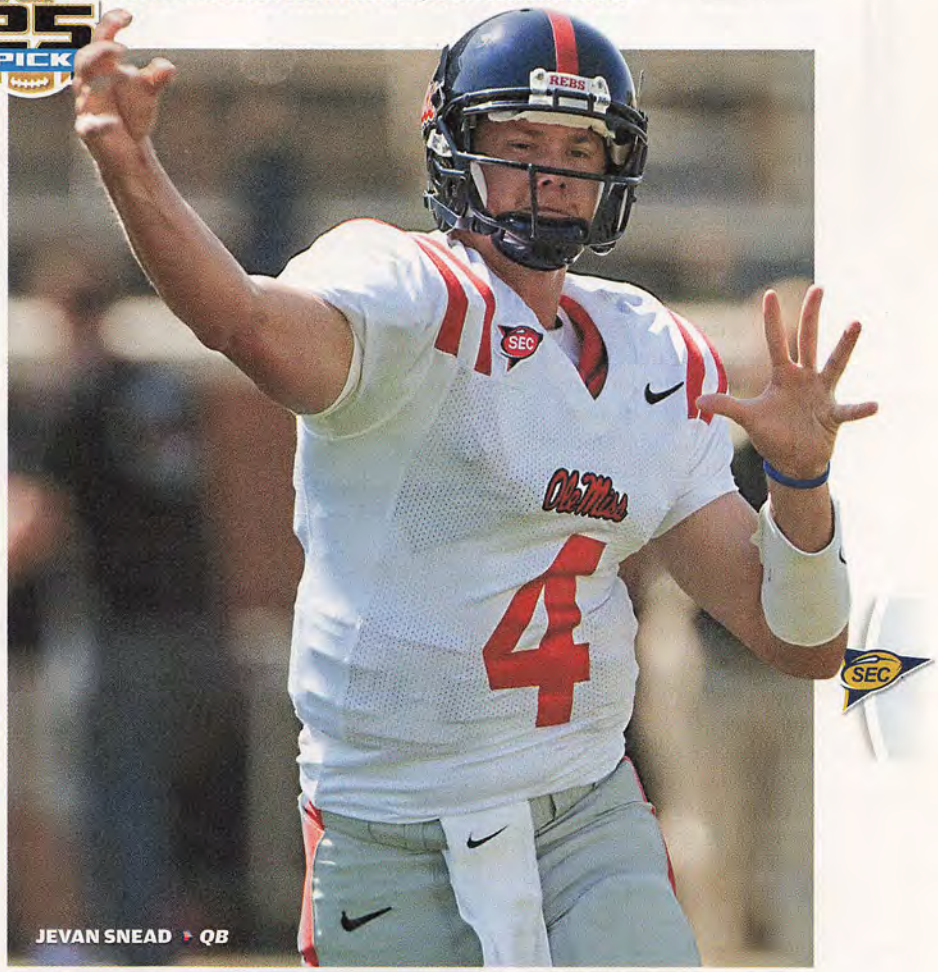
SportingNews YEARBOOKS

SEC WEST PRESEASON RANK

OLE MISS REBELS

1

TOP 25 PICK



JEVAN SNEAD ▸ QB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@MEMPHIS	41-24
S.19	Southeastern Louisiana	
S.24	@SOUTH CAROLINA	24-31
O.3	@VANDERBILT	17-23
O.10	Alabama	20-24
O.17	UAB	
O.24	Arkansas	23-21
O.31	@AUBURN	17-7
N.7	Northern Arizona	
N.14	Tennessee	

GAME TO WATCH

N.21	LSU	31-13

The rivalry now known as the Magnolia Bowl served as the Rebels' coming-out party with an 18-point win at Death Valley in 2008. Will 2009 follow suit?

N.28	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	45-0

BOWL PROJECTION
» SUGAR BOWL

BCS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- If Greg Hardy plays to his ability, it could be the last piece for the Rebels' BCS run.
- Houston Nutt's use of the "Wild Rebel" gives defenses fits.

Houston Nutt didn't begin 2008 with a plan to play in the Cotton Bowl. The world would have thought he was crazy.

Not when he was taking over a team that just a year before had zero Southeastern Conference wins under former coach Ed Orgeron.

With talented transfer quarterback Jevan Snead and physical offensive and defensive lines, the Rebels lowered their shoulders, plugged away and hoped for the best.

"It took a lot of time and nurturing," says Nutt, who shared 2008 SEC Coach-of-the-Year honors with Alabama's Nick Saban and Vanderbilt's Bobby Johnson.

There's a lesson in last year's 9-4 surprise record, as Nutt's squad now hopes to solidify its place on the national stage.

"Just go around saying we're a top-five team, we don't do that," Nutt says. "We can have a good team, but there are still a lot of questions. We have to go to work."

Last season, the Rebels were a trendy upset pick for experts, a cool underdog. This year, they are front-runners.

With that comes a responsibility to improve.

"We've got to have a lot of people step up," says Nutt, whose team finished No. 14 in last year's BCS rankings. "We've got to stay healthy. We don't have a lot of depth in the offensive line, unlike the defensive line that has more numbers."

Gone is All-America left tackle Michael Oher, one of three offensive-line starters who exited. A natural run blocker who also protected Snead's back side, Oher paved the way for the Rebels' rushing attack.

Right tackle John Jerry has taken the lead on the line and Nutt lauds him because "he knows how to play hard."

Center Daverin Geralds has also impressed, and left tackle Bradley Sowell gets first crack at filling in for Oher. Freshman Bobbie Massie, the massive Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy signee, has a chance to start, too.

That group will block for burgeoning star Brandon Bolden (542 rushing yards), Enrique Davis (244) and leading returning rusher Cordera Eason (647).

Last year, Nutt received help from a newfangled, oft-copied formation called the "Wild Rebel," which looked like the old single wing and featured diminutive wideout Dexter McCluster and Bolden.

But it never could have happened without an effective offensive line.

"[The young linemen] have to get better, and they really haven't played," Nutt says. "They have the toughest job. They're thinking and talking, and we're asking them to be physical. It's not easy."

Snead says the changes on offense are influencing other spots, not just the line.

"That's affecting us somewhat," Snead says. "Everybody is trying new positions and we're flipping everybody around, and I don't know if we have that chemistry like it was. We're working on that up front. And I've got to improve on my decision-making."

Snead wasted no time making his mark last season, engineering the Rebels' high-powered offense. He groomed it to where Ole Miss not only stayed tough against good defenses, but also upset eventual national champ Florida, overwhelmed LSU and disposed of Texas Tech 47-34 in the Cotton Bowl.

Welcoming back All-SEC kicker Joshua Shene and wideouts Shay Hodge (725 receiving yards) and McCluster only helps.

Ole Miss has fewer holes to fill on the other side of the ball, as it returns eight starters from a unit that ranked 19th nationally in total defense (307.2 yards per game) last year. Thanks to a bruising defensive line, the Rebels were second in the SEC in rushing defense (85.5) and fourth nationally.

But defensive tackle Peria Jerry is off to the NFL, taking his 10 career sacks with him. Ends Kentrell Lockett and Marcus Tillman will have to ramp up their games if this unit wants to be as dominant. And don't forget Greg Hardy, the All-America-caliber end who has battled attitude and health issues the past two seasons. He missed the spring with a stress fracture in his foot, though Nutt is optimistic.

"Greg Hardy has been doing great with his rehab," Nutt says. "He has made every meeting and I've been very proud of his attitude. It is the best that I have ever seen it."

Tackle Ted Laurent started seven games and played in all 13, recording 24 tackles. Backup Jerrell Powe, whose multiyear eligibility battle earned him more headlines than practices, finally has his weight down to 340. It's time to find out if he's a star.

The linebacking corps of Jonathan Cornell, Allen Walker and Patrick Trahan is physical, with Trahan drawing raves for his work this past spring.

"[Trahan] is so fast and so quick," Nutt says.

"He's gaining so much confidence, and that's what you have to have."

In the secondary, the leading returning tackler is safety Kendrick Lewis (85), though Cassius Vaughn and Marshay Green are back.

RECRUITING REPORT

The Rebels signed an SEC-high 37 prospects and closed better than just about anyone in the country. Houston Nutt and his staff landed wide receiver **Patrick Patterson**, quarterback **Raymond Cotton**, tight end **Zaccheus Mason**, linebackers **D.T. Shackelford, Joel Kight** and **Mike Marry**, offensive tackle **Bobbie Massie**, defensive tackle **Corey Gaines** and defensive end **Craig Drummond** all late in the process. Along the way, they beat recruiting powers Alabama, Tennessee, LSU and Georgia.

The Rebels hit Florida hard and got some gems in running backs **Rodney Scott** and **Korvic Neat** and defensive backs **Frank Crawford** and **Artice Kellam.** Safety **Darius Barksdale** will also show up in Oxford. He was the state's top prospect a year ago but failed to qualify academically.

There's no question Nutt has the most surprising class in the SEC, having picked up where former coach Ed Orgeron left off.

–Jamie Newberg, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *BOBBIE MASSIE, LT*

After snatching the blue-chip tackle from Alabama before signing day, Ole Miss figures to eventually replace Michael Oher with Massie.

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Jevan Snead	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	145.51	327-184-13	56.3	2762	26	212.5

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Dexter McCluster	13	109	655	6.0	6	50.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Shay Hodge	12	44	725	16.5	8	60.4
Dexter McCluster	13	44	625	14.2	1	48.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Kendrick Lewis	13	51	34	85

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Greg Hardy	8	8.5	73

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Kendrick Lewis	4	44	11.0	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
SEC: 5-3
(beat Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl, 47-34)

Coach: Houston Nutt
2nd year (9-4)
Career record: 89-59 (FBS)
Offensive coordinator:
Kent Austin (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Tyrone Nix (2nd year)

Stadium: Vaught-Hemingway Stadium (60,580)
Tickets: 888-732-8587
Site: Oxford, Miss.
Official athletic Web site:
www.olemisssports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	4	Jevan Snead (6-3, 215, Jr.)
	17	Billy Tapp (6-4, 230, Sr.)
FB	43	Andy Hartmann (5-10, 243, Sr.)
	30	Derrick Davis (5-10, 224, Jr.)
RB	34	Brandon Bolden (5-11, 220, So.)
	25	Cordera Eason (5-10, 224, Sr.)
LOT	78	Bradley Sowell (6-7, 310, So.)
		Bobbie Massie (6-7, 345, Fr.)
LOG	75	Rishaw Johnson (6-4, 295, So.)
	63	Brandon Green (6-2, 300, Sr.)
C	72	Daverin Geralds (6-2, 312, Sr.)
	65	Mark Jean-Louis (6-2, 355, Sr.)
ROG	71	Reid Neely (6-6, 310, Sr.)
	62	Don Mosley (6-1, 300, Jr.)
ROT	77	John Jerry (6-5, 350, Sr.)
	54	Logan Clair (6-5, 305, Jr.)
TE	80	Gerald Harris (6-5, 250, Sr.)
	32	Reggie Hicks (6-1, 234, Jr.)
WR	3	Shay Hodge (6-1, 207, Sr.)
	16	Markeith Summers (6-2, 197, Jr.)
WR	22	Dexter McCluster (5-8, 165, Sr.)
	21	Lionel Breaux (6-0, 191, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	92	Marcus Tillman (6-4, 260, Sr.)
	95	Emmanuel Stephens (6-3, 235, Sr.)
LDT	99	Ted Laurent (6-0, 303, Jr.)
	57	Jerrell Powe (6-2, 340, Jr.)
RDT	96	Lawon Scott (6-1, 322, Jr.)
	93	Justin Smith (6-4, 280, So.)
RDE	86	Greg Hardy (6-4, 265, Sr.)
	40	Kentrell Lockett (6-5, 240, Jr.)
SLB	9	Allen Walker (6-1, 215, Jr.)
	48	Lamar Brumfield (6-0, 224, Sr.)
MLB	51	Jonathan Cornell (6-1, 225, Jr.)
	53	Jason Jones (6-2, 220, Fr.)
WLB	7	Patrick Trahan (6-3, 225, Sr.)
	37	Lekenwic Haynes (6-3, 205, Fr.)
LCB	8	Marshay Green (5-9, 170, Sr.)
	6	Jeremy McGee (5-10, 178, Jr.)
RCB	24	Cassius Vaughn (5-10, 185, Sr.)
	41	Marcus Temple (5-9, 181, So.)
FS	1	Kendrick Lewis (5-11, 192, Sr.)
	30	Jared Mitchell (6-3, 180, Fr.)
SS	20	Johnny Brown (5-11, 207, Jr.)
	39	Derrick Herman (5-11, 185, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	93	Joshua Shene (5-8, 170, Sr.)
P	89	Justin Sparks (6-2, 187, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

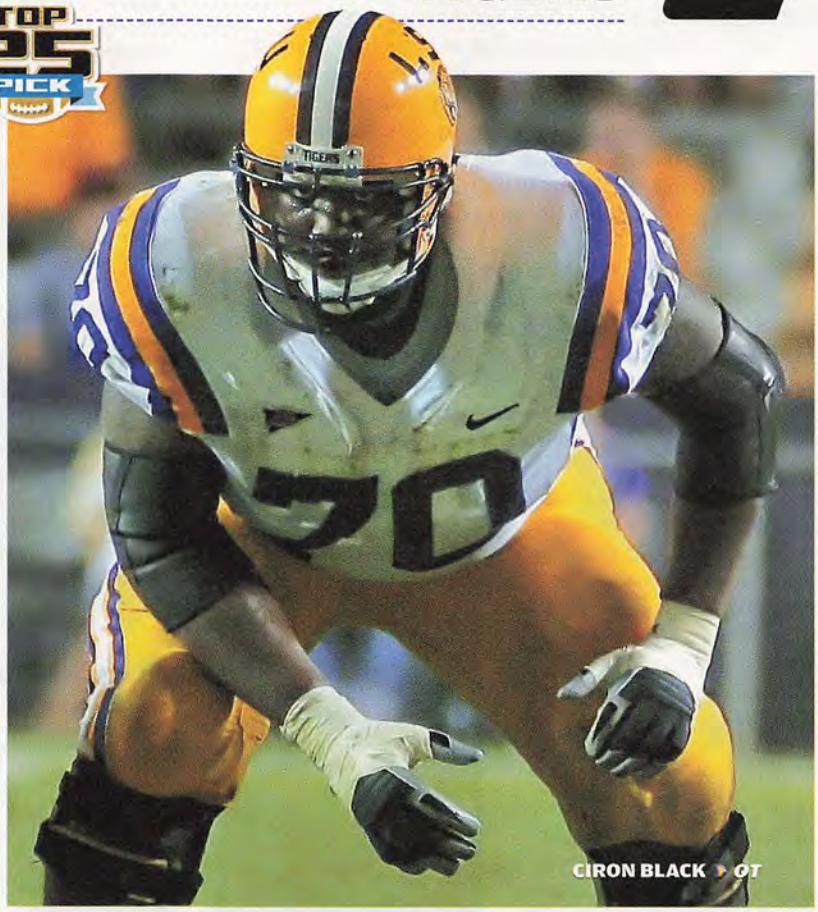
2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	OLE MISS	OPP
SCORING	417	247
Points Per Game	32.1	19.0
FIRST DOWNS	256	222
Rushing	122	86
Passing	124	117
Penalty	10	19
RUSHING YARDAGE	2424	1112
Yards gained rushing	2668	1593
Yards lost rushing	244	481
Rushing Attempts	520	411
Average Per Rush	4.7	2.7
Average Per Game	186.5	85.5
TDs Rushing	21	9
PASSING YARDAGE	2875	2882
Att-Comp-Int	340-190-15	437-257-16
Average Per Pass	8.5	6.6
Average Per Catch	15.1	11.2
Average Per Game	221.2	221.7
TDs Passing	27	18
TOTAL OFFENSE	5299	3994
Total Plays	860	848
Average Per Play	6.2	4.7
Average Per Game	407.6	307.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	48-1056	63-1273
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	36-380	15-89
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	16-274	15-267

TEAM STATISTICS	OLE MISS	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	22.0	20.2
PUNT RETURN AVG.	10.6	5.9
INT RETURN AVG.	17.1	17.8
FUMBLES-LOST	20-10	21-7
PENALTIES-YARDS	66-624	79-596
Average Per Game	48.0	45.8
PUNTS-YARDS	54-2099	78-3056
Average Per Punt	38.9	39.2
Net punt average	36.5	32.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:14	29:37
3RD-DOWN CONV.	75/173	60/187
3rd-Down Pct.	43%	32%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/14	12/22
4th-Down Pct.	64%	55%
SACKS BY-YARDS	38-292	20-102
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	52	30
FG-ATTEMPTS	17-21	13-16
PAT-ATTEMPTS	52-52	28-29
ATTENDANCE	371036	381047
Games/Avg Per Game	7/53005	5/76209
Neutral Site Games		1/88175

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Ole Miss	113	133	80	91	417
Opponent	59	81	27	80	247

LSU TIGERS 2



SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@WASHINGTON	
S.12	Vanderbilt	
S.19	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S.26	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	34-24
O.3	@GEORGIA	38-52
O.10	Florida	21-51
O.24	Auburn	26-21
O.31	Tulane	35-10
GAME TO WATCH		
N.7	@ALABAMA	21-27 (OT)
After Nick Saban made the Tiger faithful wish he had never left Baton Rouge in 2008, LSU coach Les Miles gets his chance for payback this season.		
N.14	Louisiana Tech	
N.21	@Ole Miss	13-31
N.28	Arkansas	30-31

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL
» CAPITAL ONE BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Dual-threat quarterback Jordan Jefferson is talented but inconsistent.
» The Tigers still have as much athleticism and talent up front as anyone.

Only in Baton Rouge does a down year mean eight wins and a trip to the Chick-fil-A Bowl. It also means major changes are needed at quarterback and on defense.

Will business as usual return to Death Valley? Coach Les Miles, who had won 85 percent of his games going into last season yet stumbled to 8-5 overall and 3-5 in the Southeastern Conference in 2008, thinks so.

Out is mistake-prone Jarrett Lee, the quarterback whose four interceptions in an overtime loss to then-No. 1 Alabama helped doom his fate. In is sophomore Jordan Jefferson, who came on late last season, then starred in the blowout bowl victory over Georgia Tech.

"It's nice to see a quarterback step under center and have the opportunity to make throws, pick up big third downs and move the football," Miles says. "Jordan Jefferson is certainly in the lead and looks to be making his case to be the starter."

On defense, out are co-coordinators Doug Mallory and Bradley Dale Peveto, who both end disastrous tenures that saw the Tigers fall to 56th in scoring defense. In is former longtime Tennessee coordinator John Chavis. The savvy veteran is expected to turn around this talented group.

"There's a little different feel over there right now," says Miles of the defense. "I like the way it's going. There's a great enthusiasm and a want to be special. It's what we need. For this football team to be as good as they're capable, that defense has to come to life, and they have."

Miles likes his changes and is confident the Tigers won't slip and slide into a repeat of last season.

"Our team right now is working as hard as any team that we've had here," says Miles, who owns a national title ring.

As they seem to every year, the Tigers have spectacular talent at receiver.

Senior speedster Brandon LaFell (63 catches, 929 yards, 8 TDs) is back, though he's without help from departed Demetrius Byrd. Tight end Richard Dickson, a red-zone threat who had 31 catches for 324 yards and five scores in 2008, gives Jefferson a security blanket while world-class sprinter Trindon Holliday (2,229 career all-purpose yards) provides versatility. The talent doesn't stop there, as a key member of a touted signee class is instant-impact receiver Rueben Randle.

"Our receivers will be as good, better than they were a year ago," Miles says.

The running game has more firepower, too. The SEC's leading returning rusher just happens to be in LSU's backfield. Senior Charles Scott (1,174 yards, 18 TDs) decided against entering the NFL draft and should continue to abuse collegiate defenses.

But the key is Jefferson, who must avoid forcing the ball into tight coverage as Lee did last season. Though steady is enough, he wants more.

DERICK HINGLE / ICON SMI

"We work hard on getting the offense to make the right reads and know where to go with the ball," Jefferson says. "It makes me feel more comfortable for the season. This year, I understand the playbook more, and I'm able to bring more to the table."

Jefferson is the starter. But watch for cameos from Russell Shepard, the nation's No. 1 quarterback signee.

"Any time [Shepard] has the ball in his hands, he has a chance to make a big play," says Miles of the prep All-American from Houston. "The key is he makes a great decision with the ball. He's been really good about where to throw it. When he pulls it down, he runs and really eats up some ground. He's going to be an exciting addition to the team. How it all fits and comes together will be kind of wait-and-see."

There's one caveat to the Tigers' overwhelming offensive talent: LSU can't block well. Like no other time in Miles' tenure, the line is thin. The team lost two offensive linemen, but one is the massive Herman Johnson.

"We're lacking [in depth] on the offensive line," Miles says. "It'll be interesting to see this freshman class come in because they're going to have an opportunity to compete very quickly."

Will the defense back up the offense this year? The addition of Chavis makes it more likely. A 14-year assistant at Tennessee, he won't likely allow a repeat of what happened last year, when the Tigers gave up 51 points to Florida, 52 to Georgia and 31 each to Troy and Ole Miss.

This year, the defense returns its three leading tacklers. Senior linebacker Harry Coleman led the way with 71 last season, while Kelvin Sheppard had 64 and Perry Riley made 60, including 11 to earn Chick-fil-A Bowl MVP honors.

From a secondary that only picked off eight passes last year, Chad Jones is welcomed back at safety, while signee Craig Loston could get playing time early.

Meanwhile the defensive line should be salty as usual, thanks to Rahim Alem, Charles Alexander, Drake Nevis, Lazarius Levingston and Al Woods. Expect big things from this unit, since it has a new defensive-line coach. The charismatic Brick Haley left a job with the Chicago Bears to get back into college football.

RECRUITING REPORT

LSU racked up in recruiting once again and did it both in Louisiana and around the region. This is an unbelievable class with in-state stars in wide receiver **Rueben Randle**, defensive tackles **Chris Davenport** and **Josh Downs**, running back **Michael Ford**, linebacker **Barkevious Mingo** and offensive linemen **Carneal Ainsworth** and **Chris Faulk**. The Tigers also landed out-of-state standouts like QB **Russell Shepard**.

The outstanding class is balanced with speed and athleticism across the board. Randle, Shepard, Davenport and Loston are all five-star prospects. Despite the talent already in Baton Rouge, it will be difficult to keep these prospects off the field.

The Tigers lost five-star cornerback Janzen Jackson to Tennessee, DeAngelo Benton to Auburn and Kenny Bell to Alabama on National Signing Day. That cost them the No. 1 class in the country.

—Jamie Newberg, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *RUSSELL SHEPARD, QB*

The freshman phenom could be a quarterback or a receiver, and figures to light up opponents however the ball gets in his hands.

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
Jarrett Lee	11	116.93	269-143-16	53.2	1873	14	170.3

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Charles Scott	13	217	1174	5.4	18	90.3

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Brandon LaFell	13	63	929	14.7	8	71.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Harry Coleman	13	42	29	71

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Rahim Alem	13	8	66

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Chris Hawkins	3	-13	-4.3	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
SEC: 3-5
(beat Georgia Tech in the Chick-fil-A Bowl, 38-3)

Coach: Les Miles
5th Year (42-11)
Career record: 70-32
Offensive coordinator:
Gary Crowton (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
John Chavis (1st year)

Stadium: Tiger Stadium (92,400)
Tickets: 800-960-8587
Site: Baton Rouge
Official athletic Web site:
www.lsusports.net

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	9	Jordan Jefferson (6-4, 209, So.)
	12	Jarrett Lee (6-2, 216, So.)
FB	62	Richard Dugas (6-1, 275, Jr.)
	34	Stevan Ridley (5-11, 222, So.)
RB	32	Charles Scott (5-11, 233, Sr.)
	5	Keiland Williams (5-11, 229, Sr.)
LOT	70	Ciron Black (6-5, 325, Sr.)
	75	Greg Shaw (6-5, 290, So.)
LOG	68	Josh Dworaczyk (6-6, 286, So.)
	60	Will Blackwell (6-4, 298, So.)
C	53	T-Bob Hebert (6-3, 282, So.)
	64	Patrick Lonergan (6-4, 288, Fr.)
ROG	65	Lyle Hitt (6-2, 289, Sr.)
	60	Will Blackwell (6-4, 298, So.)
ROT	78	Joseph Barksdale (6-5, 315, Jr.)
	61	Trey Helms (6-4, 259, So.)
TE	18	Richard Dickson (6-3, 246, Sr.)
	29	Jarred Joseph (6-1, 209, Fr.)
WR	1	Brandon LaFell (6-3, 209, Sr.)
	87	Jared Mitchell (5-11, 201, Sr.)
WR	80	Terrance Toliver (6-4, 194, Jr.)
	8	Trindon Holliday (5-5, 164, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	95	Lazarius Levingston (6-4, 269, Jr.)
	88	Chase Clement (6-5, 255, Fr.)
LDT	91	Charles Alexander (6-3, 310, Sr.)
	96	Kentravis Aubrey (6-3, 285, So.)
RDT	97	Al Woods (6-4, 323, Sr.)
	92	Drake Nevis (6-1, 294, Jr.)
RDE	84	Rahim Alem (6-3, 254, Sr.)
	81	Chancey Aghayere (6-4, 269, Fr.)
SLB	56	Perry Riley (6-1, 240, Sr.)
	88	Chase Clement (6-5, 255, Fr.)
MLB	54	Jacob Cutrera (6-4, 236, Sr.)
	24	Harry Coleman (6-2, 205, Sr.)
WLB	11	Kelvin Sheppard (6-3, 237, Jr.)
	22	Ryan Baker (6-0, 213, So.)
LCB	4	Jai Eugene (5-11, 191, Jr.)
	7	Patrick Peterson (6-1, 205, So.)
RCB	29	Chris Hawkins (6-1, 184, Sr.)
	13	Ron Brooks (5-11, 175, So.)
FS	24	Harry Coleman (6-2, 205, Sr.)
		Craig Loston (6-2, 193, Fr.)
SS	3	Chad Jones (6-3, 214, Jr.)
	44	Danny McCray (6-1, 212, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	30	Josh Jasper (5-11, 165, Jr.)
P	30	Josh Jasper (5-11, 165, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	LSU	OPP
SCORING	402	314
Points Per Game	30.9	24.2
FIRST DOWNS	254	211
Rushing	122	76
Passing	114	114
Penalty	18	21
RUSHING YARDAGE	2168	1432
Yards gained rushing	2510	1751
Yards lost rushing	342	319
Rushing Attempts	495	421
Average Per Rush	4.4	3.4
Average Per Game	166.8	110.2
TDs Rushing	27	17
PASSING YARDAGE	2617	2800
Att-Comp-Int	391-206-18	425-227-8
Average Per Pass	6.7	6.6
Average Per Catch	12.7	12.3
Average Per Game	201.3	215.4
TDs Passing	21	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	4785	4232
Total Plays	886	846
Average Per Play	5.4	5.0
Average Per Game	368.1	325.5
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	54-1053	70-1234
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	31-380	15-127
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	8-51	18-461

TEAM STATISTICS	LSU	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	19.5	17.6
PUNT RETURN AVG.	12.3	8.5
INT RETURN AVG.	6.4	25.6
FUMBLES-LOST	16-2	26-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	82-649	75-637
Average Per Game	49.9	49.0
PUNTS-YARDS	63-2538	75-3124
Average Per Punt	40.3	41.7
Net punt average	37.3	35.8
TIME OF POSS./GAME	30:13	29:47
3RD-DOWN CONV.	70/183	57/183
3rd-Down Pct.	38%	31%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	7/18	9/22
4th-Down Pct.	39%	41%
SACKS BY-YARDS	28-172	22-185
MISC YARDS	-11	0
TDS SCORED	50	39
FG-ATTEMPTS	18-23	14-19
PAT-ATTEMPTS	48-49	38-38
ATTENDANCE	739065	315937
Games/Avg Per Game	8/92383	4/78984
Neutral Site Games		1/71423

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
LSU	81	137	89	95	0	402
Opponents	82	85	63	78	6	314

ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE 3

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@VIRGINIA TECH*	
S.12	Florida International	
S.19	North Texas	
S.26	Arkansas	49-14
0.3	@KENTUCKY	17-14
GAME TO WATCH		
0.10	**@OLE MISS**	**24-20**
Both teams could be undefeated for a series that always comes down to the last play and usually includes controversy. Could it decide the SEC West?		
0.17	South Carolina	
0.24	Tennessee	29-9
N.7	LSU	27-21 (OT)
N.14	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	32-7
N.21	Chattanooga	
N.27	@AUBURN	36-0

** at Atlanta*

BOWL PROJECTION MIDDLE TIER BOWL

» OUTBACK BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Toughest defense against the rush in the country.
» Is Greg McElroy the answer at quarterback?

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Greg McElroy (6-3, 218, Jr.)
RB	22	Mark Ingram (5-10, 215, So.)
LOT	77	James Carpenter (6-5, 305, Jr.)
LOG	78	Mike Johnson (6-6, 305, Sr.)
C	73	William Vlachos (6-0, 305, Jr.)
ROG	67	John Michael Boswell (6-5, 300, So.)
ROT	79	Drew Davis (6-7, 305, Jr.)
TE	84	Colin Peek (6-6, 247, Sr.)
TE	17	Brad Smelley (6-3, 218, So.)
WR	8	Julio Jones (6-4, 210, So.)
WR	80	Mike McCoy (6-2, 205, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	95	Brandon Deaderick (6-4, 287, Sr.)
NT	62	Terrence Cody (6-5, 365, Sr.)
RDE	97	Lorenzo Washington (6-5, 275, Sr.)
LOLB	13	Cory Reamer (6-4, 218, Sr.)
LILB	98	Brandon Fanney (6-4, 257, Sr.)
RILB	25	Rolando McClain (6-4, 249, Jr.)
ROLB	30	Dont'a Hightower (6-4, 250, So.)
LCB	28	Javier Arenas (5-9, 198, Sr.)
RCB	3	Kareem Jackson (5-11, 192, Jr.)
FS	27	Justin Woodall (6-2, 220, Sr.)
SS	23	Robby Green (6-0, 180, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	99	Leigh Tiffin (6-1, 199, Sr.)
P	97	PJ Fitzgerald (5-11, 198, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 12-2
SEC: 8-0
(lost to Utah in the Sugar Bowl, 31-17)

Coach: Nick Saban, 3rd year (19-8)
Career record: 110-50-1
Offensive coordinator: Jim McElwain (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator: Kirby Smart (3rd year)

Stadium: Bryant-Denny Stadium (92,138)
Tickets: 205-348-BAMA
Site: Tuscaloosa
Official athletic Web site: www.rolltide.com

JULIO JONES » WR

BOB LEVERONE

5-YEAR WINS TREND

KEY
Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — D.J. Fluker
OT, 6-7, 340
Fluker is an athletic monster at tackle, a position he has played for only one season. His upside is off the charts.

2 — Trent Richardson
RB, 5-11, 220
Richardson has the body and makeup to play immediately. He's a power back with deceptive speed and quickness.

3 — Dre Kirkpatrick
CB, 6-2, 180
Kirkpatrick is the nation's top high school cornerback. He has outstanding ball skills.

4 — Nico Johnson
LB, 6-3, 226
Johnson is the No. 2 outside linebacker in the nation. He can get close to the football in a hurry.

5 — James Carpenter
OT, 6-5, 305
Carpenter is a junior-college transfer who is already in Tuscaloosa making an impact on the offensive front.

Greg McElroy has never had a problem being patient. Already a thoughtful player, he used his time on the sidelines to be more strategic.

That's what McElroy did for three years behind future Missouri star Chase Daniel at Southlake Carroll (Texas) High.

He did so again as Alabama quarterback John Parker Wilson rewrote the record book.

The junior is done waiting. A quarterback battle between McElroy, the athletic redshirt freshman Star Jackson and strong-armed walk-on Thomas Darrah never materialized.

On the heels of a 12-2 season that included a Southeastern Conference title game appearance but ended bitterly with a loss to Utah in the Sugar Bowl, McElroy is the player charged with leading the team back to national prominence.

"Now, I'm ready for my turn," McElroy says.

To raise the bar from last season, the foundation under McElroy must be sound.

Sophomore receiver Julio Jones, whose sensational freshman season vaulted him into national consciousness, returns after catching 58 balls for 924 yards and four touchdowns a year ago. It's up to Mike McCoy, Earl Alexander and Marquis Maze to serve as complements.

The biggest questions concern whether a power running attack that gained the second-most rushing yards in the SEC can be replicated.

The offensive line must replace three starters, including left tackle and Outland Trophy winner Andre Smith and All-America center Antoine Caldwell. Junior-college transfer James Carpenter (left tackle) and strongman William Vlachos (center) attempt to fill in, while recruit D.J. Fluker will have a chance to compete as well.

There is promise in slashing tailback Mark Ingram, the best back returning after the early departure of Glen Coffee to the NFL.

But the X-factor is star recruit Trent Richardson, who resembles another product out of Escambia (Fla.) High in Emmitt Smith.

As for the defense, it is stout, tough and maybe the best in the country.

It was second in the nation in stopping the run last season (74.1 yards per game) and third in total defense (263.5). And the Tide lost only two starters, although one of them was All-America safety Rashad Johnson (5 INTs).

All-America nose tackle Terrence Cody returns lighter and, in his words, "hungrier." All-America linebacker Rolando McClain (95 tackles) is a headache to deal with, while Brandon Fanney (9 tackles for loss) and Dont'a Hightower will solidify the run defense and rush the passer.

Add ball-hawking cornerback (and All-America return man) Javier Arenas to the discussion, and opponents will struggle to score in '09.

Even coach Nick Saban can't avoid the optimism.

"If we can get every player to improve, the unit should improve," Saban says.

THE NEXT BIG THING

TRENT RICHARDSON, RB

The big, powerful freshman could win the starting job in camp and fulfill the promise and hype he generated during recruiting.

4 AUBURN TIGERS

By mid-April, after a record crowd showed up at Auburn's spring game and saw a big-play offensive showcase, the attitude around the program changed.

The distaste with the tumultuous 2008 campaign was gone. The frustration with the hiring of coach Gene Chizik had given way to the optimism generated by his high-powered staff and recruiting haul.

"It's just a lot more fun," running back Ben Tate says. "It's a lot better atmosphere around here right now."

What a difference a few months made.

Auburn spent the 2008 offseason in a high-stakes game of "What have you done for me lately?" Out went Tommy Tuberville, the coach who led the Tigers to an 85-40 record over the past decade, including a 13-0 season in 2004.

Last year's 36-0 rout by then-No. 1 Alabama was the final straw for Tuberville after a 5-7 season that saw the Tigers miss a bowl appearance for the first time since 1999.

In came Chizik, who was the defensive coordinator with that perfect 2004 Tigers team and earned a national title ring as a co-defensive coordinator at Texas.

The negative response was not what Auburn athletics director Jay Jacobs was looking for. In just one example, an outspoken Auburn fan created a YouTube classic when he met Jacobs' plane at the airport, screaming, "We want a winner, not a loser."

Slowly, Chizik changed the fan perception that he is wrong for the job. He hired a top-flight staff and vowed to bring a hard-nosed defense and play-making offense to every game.

But does Chizik have the roster to pull it off?

There is talent. The elusive Tate has already gained 1,295 career rushing yards, proving to be an SEC-caliber player. His colleague, the versatile Mario Fannin, could line up anywhere as he hopes to improve on 238 rushing yards from last season.

At receiver, Rod Smith, Montez Billings and Robert Dunn are gone, with Fannin and tight end Tommy Trott the two leading returnees. The team must see improvement from Darvin Adams, Quindarius Carr and others.

Auburn's biggest question mark is at quarterback. In 2008, the Tigers were 99th in the nation in passing offense. An overlooked Neil Caudle outshined '08 starter Kodi Burns during spring camp, as senior Chris Todd nursed his ailing shoulder and redshirt freshman Barrett Trotter tore knee ligaments.

The spring ended with coordinator Gus Malzahn calling the battle a draw between the running Burns and the passing Caudle, despite Caudle's dominance in the spring game.

The defense should keep Auburn in games, even though it lost linemen Tez Doolittle and Sen'Derrick Marks and corner Jerraud Powers.

The secondary is talented with leading tackler Zac Etheridge (75 stops) and Walter McFadden (8 passes broken up) returning. Still, free safety Mike McNeil's broken leg added a sour taste to the spring.

THE NEXT BIG THING

ELTORO FREEMAN, LB

As soon as this junior-college transfer made his much-anticipated arrival, he was in the starting lineup and attacking ballcarriers.

BEN TATE ▷ RB

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
SEC: 2-6

Coach: Gene Chizik, 1st year
Career record: 5-19
Offensive coordinator: Gus Malzahn (1st year)
Defensive coordinator: Ted Roof (1st year)

Stadium: Jordan-Hare Stadium (87,451)
Tickets: 800-AUB-1957
Site: Auburn, Ala.
Official athletic Web site: www.auburntigers.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

KEY
Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Louisiana Tech	
S.12	Mississippi State	3-2
S.19	West Virginia	17-34
S.26	Ball State	
O.3	@TENNESSEE	14-12
O.10	@ARKANSAS	22-25
O.17	Kentucky	
O.24	@LSU	21-26
O.31	Ole Miss	7-17
N.7	Furman	
N.14	@GEORGIA	13-17

GAME TO WATCH

N.27 Alabama **0-36**

A brutal schedule may welcome Gene Chizik rudely back to the Tigers, but the season can be saved with an Iron Bowl victory over Nick Saban's Crimson Tide.

BOWL PROJECTION
» COTTON BOWL
MIDDLE TIER BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» No quarterback has emerged.
» Fast-paced, spread offense should keep things interesting.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	19	Neil Caudle (6-3, 199, Jr.)
RB	44	Ben Tate (5-11, 217, Sr.)
LOT	73	Lee Ziemba (6-8, 304, Jr.)
LOG	57	Byron Isom (6-3, 293, Jr.)
C	50	Ryan Pugh (6-4, 287, Jr.)
ROG	66	Mike Berry (6-3, 313, Jr.)
ROT	75	Andrew McCain (6-6, 295, Sr.)
TE	5	Tommy Trott (6-5, 237, Sr.)
WR	85	Quindarius Carr (6-1, 181, So.)
WR	13	Tim Hawthorne (6-3, 214, Jr.)
WR	89	Darvin Adams (6-3, 184, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	52	Antonio Coleman (6-3, 257, Sr.)
LDT	91	Jake Ricks (6-4, 296, Sr.)
RDT	93	Mike Blanc (6-4, 288, Jr.)
RDE	49	Michael Goggans (6-3, 257, Jr.)
SLB	21	Eltoro Freeman (5-11, 222, Jr.)
MLB	17	Josh Bynes (6-2, 233, Jr.)
WLB	46	Craig Stevens (6-3, 227, Jr.)
LCB	6	Walter McFadden (6-0, 176, Sr.)
RCB	2	Aairon Savage (5-11, 173, Sr.)
FS	26	Mike McNeil (6-2, 205, Jr.)
SS	4	Zac Etheridge (6-0, 204, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	1	Chris Brooks (6-0, 164, Fr.)
P	97	Clinton Durst (6-1, 192, So.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Tyrik Rollison
QB, 6-2, 185
Rollison could turn out to be the steal of the SEC. He's an athletic quarterback with a great arm.

2 — Philip Lutzenkirchen
TE, 6-4, 245
Lutzenkirchen is a super pass-catching tight end with great hands. He should fit in well the new offense.

3 — Dontae Aycock
RB, 5-10, 216
Aycock played quarterback in high school but projects as a running back. He runs with power and balance.

4 — DeAngelo Benton
WR, 6-3, 210
Auburn stole Benton away from LSU on National Signing Day. He should be a playmaker in the new Auburn offense.

5 — Onterio McCalebb
RB, 6-0, 175
McCalebb is on the small side weight-wise, but he should give the Tigers a threat.

JOHN REED / US PRESSWIRE

ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS 5

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Missouri State*	

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 Georgia

If coach Bobby Petrino is going to make that big leap in Year 2, beating the Bulldogs at home will set the tone.

S.26	@ALABAMA	14-49
0.3	@TEXAS A&M**	
0.10	Auburn	25-22
0.17	@FLORIDA	7-38
0.24	@OLE MISS	21-23
0.31	Eastern Michigan	
N.7	South Carolina	21-34
N.14	Troy	
N.21	MISSISSIPPI STATE*	28-31
N.28	@LSU	31-30

** At Little Rock, AR*
*** At Arlington, TX*

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» INDEPENDENCE BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Strong-armed quarterback Ryan Mallett makes his debut.
» Tackling and discipline must improve on defense.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Ryan Mallett (6-7, 248, So.)
FB	30	Mitchell Bailey (5-11, 221, So.)
RB	21	Michael Smith (5-7, 176, Sr.)
LOT	73	Ray Dominguez (6-4, 329, Jr.)
LOG	66	Mitch Petrus (6-4, 315, Sr.)
C	71	Wade Grayson (6-4, 289, Jr.)
ROG	72	Grant Cook (6-4, 322, So.)
ROT	65	DeMarcus Love (6-5, 305, Jr.)
TE	45	D.J. Williams (6-2, 251, Jr.)
WR	3	Joe Adams (5-11, 177, So.)
WR	2	London Crawford (6-2, 204, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	91	Jake Bequette (6-5, 271, So.)
LDT	61	Zach Stadther (6-1, 289, So.)
RDT	96	Malcolm Sheppard (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RDE	18	Adrian Davis (6-4, 250, Sr.)
SLB	46	Freddy Burton (6-2, 227, Jr.)
MLB	10	Wendel Davis (6-1, 222, Sr.)
WLB	34	Jerry Franklin (6-1, 237, So.)
LCB	26	Ramon Broadway (5-9, 191, Jr.)
RCB	24	Isaac Madison (5-10, 181, Jr.)
FS	39	Matt Harris (6-2, 190, Sr.)
SS	31	Jerico Nelson (5-9, 197, So.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	7	Alex Tejada (6-0, 205, Jr.)
P	7	Alex Tejada (6-0, 205, Jr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
SEC: 2-6

Coach: Bobby Petrino
2nd year (5-7)
Career record: 46-16
Offensive coordinator:
Paul Petrino (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Willy Robinson (2nd year)

Stadium: Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium (72,000)
Tickets: 800-982-4647
Site: Fayetteville
Official athletic Web site:
www.hogwired.com

NELSON CHENAULT / US PRESSWIRE

5-YEAR WINS TREND

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Darius Winston
CB, 6-0, 180
Winston is a true cover corner with size, speed and great ball skills. He'll have a chance to make a big impact.

2 Ronnie Wingo
ATH, 6-3, 220
Wingo is an outstanding athlete who could play a number of positions. The hard part is finding out which one.

3 Colby Berna
OL, 6-4, 285
Berna was the state of Arkansas' No. 2-rated prospect behind Darius Winston. He projects inside at guard.

4 DeQuinta Jones
DT, 6-4, 305
Jones was a steal from the state of Louisiana. He's an active presence at defensive tackle.

5 Anthony Leon
DB, 6-4, 230
Leon is a junior-college transfer who will get to make an immediate impact at safety.

Even with his status as an offensive mastermind secure, one could forgive Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino if he was consumed with the state of his offense. Sure, he returns nearly all his running backs and receivers. But Petrino was forced to say goodbye to quarterback Casey Dick, the second-leading passer in the Southeastern Conference in 2008.

What? Petrino's not worried?

Say hello to Ryan Mallett.

The quarterback was the first major recruit Petrino lured to Fayetteville. And he did so after Mallett played a season for Michigan.

Michigan's loss was Arkansas' much-anticipated gain.

"He's capable of making a lot of throws we couldn't make before, and that gives us a chance," Hogs offensive coordinator Paul Petrino says.

Mallett completed 61 passes for 892 yards with seven touchdowns and five interceptions filling in for injured Michigan starter Chad Henne in 2007. He sat out 2008 because of NCAA transfer rules.

In the spring game, Mallett completed 15 passes for 233 yards with two touchdowns and one interception, an outing he termed as "all right."

It's clear the former Wolverine is talented. What's unclear is whether he's the best signal-caller for the Razorbacks this fall. It would be an upset if Mallett didn't start, but a hard charge by redshirt freshman Tyler Wilson (301 passing yards, 2 INTs, 2 TDs in the spring game) will make it interesting.

His own performance even had Wilson saying, "The competition will go on into the summer."

Whoever it is will have weapons.

Eight starters return from an offense that ranked second in the SEC in passing (259.6 yards per game) and fourth in total offense (379.1) in '08. The Hogs have most of their rushing yards back, which came from second-team All-SEC back Michael Smith (1,072 yards, 5.2 yards per carry, 8 TDs).

They also return most of their receiving yards, the majority of which came from first-team All-SEC tight end D.J. Williams (61 catches, 723 yards, 3 TDs).

Defense is a different situation. The Hogs return nine starters, but that's good news and bad news.

Experienced, yes. But in '08, the defense was last in the SEC in total defense (375.2 yards per game) and scoring defense (31.2 points per game).

"Last year, I felt like it was like pulling teeth to get them to hit and concentrate on the physical part," Paul Petrino says. "We're not physical enough, we don't tackle well enough and we don't get all 11 guys to the football on every play. But we are getting better."

Led by All-SEC tackle Malcolm Sheppard, the defense is looking to improve. With talented youngsters like Freshman All-America linebacker Jerry Franklin, (87 tackles) the defense can make strides.

THE NEXT BIG THING

RYAN MALLETT, QB

The SEC will see what the Big Ten already knows—that Ryan Mallett, a Michigan transfer, has enough talent to abuse any opposing defense.

6 MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

With a new coach, new direction and new goals, the plan was to generate some new enthusiasm. So first-year Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen took his message to all corners of his new state.

He spoke with more than 20 student groups on campus. He spoke at eight different alumni meetings across the South. He planned 16 additional cities to visit after the Maroon-White game.

For a program that had just one winning season since 2000, drew just 5,000 fans for the 2008 spring game and hired Mullen from Urban Meyer's staff to restore fan-base confidence, good publicity was needed.

What was the reward for the former Florida offensive coordinator?

A record 31,606 people showed up to the spring game on April 18, evidence that fans share his excitement.

That wasn't the only aspect of rebuilding in which Mullen took pride.

"I'm pleased that we're coming out of the spring with a foundation of the offense, a foundation of the defense and special teams," Mullen says, "and more importantly, a foundation of what we expect effort-wise from our guys."

One hurdle for Mullen, who takes over an offense that was ranked 113th nationally last season, is that Gators quarterback Tim Tebow is not in Starkville. Instead, the returning starter is former junior-college transfer Tyson Lee, who completed 58.8 percent of his passes with five interceptions for only 138.1 yards per game in '08. Competing with him are athletic sophomore Chris Relf and blue-chip signee Tyler Russell, who visited the campus in the spring to learn the system.

The trio has a ways to go in utilizing Mullen's fast-paced, spread-based attack with confidence.

"It's just getting a feel for the offense," Lee says.

An offensive line led by talented left tackle Derek Sherrod must protect long enough for the signal-callers to get the ball to a depth-starved group of receivers that includes veteran Brandon McRae (518 receiving yards) and raw sprinter O'Neal Wilder. Clearly, playmaking help is wanted.

Mississippi State does have a security blanket in bruising senior running back Anthony Dixon (869 rushing yards, 7 TDs). A starter since his freshman year, the 6-1, 235-pounder has lost weight and increased his conditioning.

The defense is the backbone, as All-SEC linebacker Jamar Chaney, who had 89 tackles in 2007, returns after missing last season with a broken ankle to lead a corps that also includes K.J. Wright (72 tackles). They'll play behind an athletic, physical defensive line that features one of the surprises of the spring in junior-college transfer Pernell McPhee.

In the secondary, the Bulldogs return key performers from a unit that was 17th nationally against the pass (176.6 yards per game), though safety Derek Pegues is gone.

ANTHONY DIXON » RB

THE NEXT BIG THING

PERNELL McPHEE, DT

McPhee, a transfer from Itawamba (Miss.) Community College, is already turning heads on the defensive line with his physical play and maturity.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Jackson State	
S.12	@AUBURN	2-3
S.19	@VANDERBILT	17-14
S.26	LSU	24-34
O.3	Georgia Tech	7-38
O.10	Houston	
O.17	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	31-22
O.24	Florida	
O.31	@KENTUCKY	13-14
N.14	Alabama	7-32
N.21	@ARKANSAS*	31-28

GAME TO WATCH

N.28 Ole Miss 0-45

Last year's embarrassing loss to the Rebels helped pave the way for Dan Mullen to be hired, and he gets to make it right when Ole Miss visits Starkville for the Egg Bowl.

** at Little Rock, AR*

PROFESSOR'S GRADE C-

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» Former Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen brings originality to the Bulldogs' offense.

» Who will be the QB: Tyson Lee or blue-chip prospect Tyler Russell?

» Sylvester Croom left enough talent and grit on defense to win a few.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
SEC: 2-6

Coach: Dan Mullen, 1st year
Offensive coordinator: Les Koenning (1st year)
Defensive coordinator: Carl Torbush (1st year)

Stadium: Davis Wade Stadium (55,082)
Tickets: 888-GO-DAWGS
Site: Starkville, Miss.
Official athletic Web site: www.mstateathletics.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	16	Tyson Lee (5-10, 200, Sr.)
FB	33	Patrick Hanrahan (5-11, 225, Jr.)
RB	24	Anthony Dixon (6-1, 235, Sr.)
LOT	79	Derek Sherrod (6-6, 310, Jr.)
LOG	67	Tobias Smith (6-3, 310, Fr.)
C	70	JC Brignone (6-1, 300, Jr.)
ROG	55	Quentin Saulsberry (6-2, 300, So.)
ROT	62	Addison Lawrence (6-4, 295, So.)
TE	88	Kendrick Cook (6-1, 250, So.)
WR	81	O'Neal Wilder (6-5, 210, Fr.)
WR	6	Brandon McRae (6-4, 205, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	93	Brandon Cooper (6-1, 255, Jr.)
LDT	92	Charles Burns (6-3, 275, Sr.)
RDT	90	Pernell McPhee (6-3, 275, Jr.)
RDE	99	Sean Ferguson (6-3, 245, So.)
SLB	34	K.J. Wright (6-4, 245, Jr.)
MLB	22	Jamar Chaney (6-1, 245, Sr.)
WLB	50	Chris White (6-2, 245, Jr.)
LCB	26	Damein Anderson (5-11, 195, So.)
RCB	18	Marcus Washington (5-10, 190, Sr.)
FS	4	Charles Mitchell (5-11, 205, So.)
SS	42	Zach Smith (5-11, 200, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	37	Sean Brauchle (5-10, 180, Jr.)
P	38	Heath Hutchens (6-1, 215, Jr.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Pernell McPhee
DT, 6-3, 275
McPhee was a sought-after junior-college transfer who was regarded as one of the top defensive prospects in the nation.

2 — Fletcher Cox
DE, 6-4, 240
Cox is a speedy and athletic defensive end off the edge that plays with a nice motor.

3 — Chad Bumphis
WR, 5-11, 193
The Bulldogs desperately need playmakers for Dan Mullen's offense. This guy is a great start.

4 — Tyler Russell
QB, 6-4, 200
Don't be surprised if Russell becomes the starting quarterback by the middle of the season. He's a good decision-maker.

5 — Josh Boyd
DT, 6-3, 275
Boyd is a nice athlete at his size and position. He just needs to bulk up and learn to play with better technique..

SHELBY DANIEL / ICON SMI

P. 130 P. 132 P. 133 P. 134 P. 134 P. 135 P. 135 P. 136 P. 136

ALL-WAC

OFFENSE

QB	Kellen Moore, So., Boise State
RB	Daniel Porter, Sr., Louisiana Tech
RB	Vai Taua, Jr., Nevada
OL	John Estes, Sr., Hawaii
OL	Andrew Jackson, Jr., Fresno State
OL	Rob McGill, Jr., Louisiana Tech
OL	Alonzo Durham, Sr., Nevada
OL	Thomas Byrd, So., Boise State
TE	Virgil Green, Jr., Nevada
WR	Austin Pettis, Jr., Boise State
WR	Kevin Jurovich, Sr., San Jose State

DEFENSE

DL	Ryan Winterswyk, Jr., Boise State
DL	Kevin Basped, Jr., Nevada
DL	Carl Ihenacho, Sr., San Jose State
DL	D'Anthony Smith, Sr., Louisiana Tech
LB	Ben Jacobs, Jr., Fresno State
LB	Justin Cole, Sr., San Jose State
LB	Paul Igboeli, Sr., Utah State
DB	Kyle Wilson, Sr., Boise State
DB	Duke Ihenacho, Jr., San Jose State
DB	Antonio Baker, Sr., Louisiana Tech
DB	Jeron Johnson, Jr., Boise State

SPECIALISTS

K	Kevin Goessling, So., Fresno State
P	Brad Langley, Jr., Nevada

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 Boise State will go undefeated in the regular season for the second year in a row, putting a WAC team in a Bowl Championship Series game for the third time in four seasons.

2 Coach Gary Andersen will bring hope—and victories—to Utah State. The Aggies may not become bowl-eligible in 2009, but they will win five games for the first time since 2000.

3 Nevada quarterback Colin Kaepernick will become the third player in NCAA history to throw for 3,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in the same season.

4 Fresno State's search for a quarterback will carry into the season, although a deep group of running backs and an improved defense will carry the Bulldogs to their 10th bowl game in 11 years.

If conference king Boise State stumbles, WAC title race will ignite

By Laurence Miedema, *San Jose Mercury News*

The various teams in the Western Athletic Conference have worked hard to narrow the gap between the top and bottom of the league. However, Boise State will likely again run far ahead of the pack.

The Broncos finished No. 11 in the final *Associated Press* poll for 2008. With experience returning everywhere and sophomore quarterback Kellen Moore only getting better, Boise State figures to make another run at an undefeated regular season and its second BCS bowl appearance in four years.

That would be great for the credibility of the conference, although the bigger story might be the successful strides of the expanding second tier of the WAC.

Last season, five of six bowl-eligible teams made postseason appearances, joining a list of 13 other WAC squads that have also graced a bowl game in the last five years.

If Boise State stumbles, the conference race could get interesting.

Nevada, Louisiana Tech, Fresno State and San Jose State all have at least one dominant phase of the game that sets them apart, although not much separates that group from Hawaii and Utah State. Only Idaho and New Mexico State are in rebuilding mode.

With high-profile players and tough nonconference schedules, the WAC will have the opportunity to raise its profile.

Nevada and Boise State have offenses that rank among the most explosive in the nation, and both have high-profile quarterbacks. Nevada's Colin Kaepernick is one of five players to pass for 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in the same season.

In nonconference play, Boise State opens with Oregon. Nevada's first game is at Notre Dame and it has a home game against Missouri. Fresno State, as usual, has a demanding road slate that includes visits to Wisconsin, Cincinnati and Illinois. Louisiana Tech plays at Auburn and LSU.

Ultimately, the road to the WAC title will go through Boise again, but it'll be a wild ride.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

1. BOISE STATE The Broncos once again signed one of the best classes from a non-BCS conference. Boise State did well in its own back yard, as well as in California.

2. LOUISIANA TECH The Bulldogs made major strides with in-state players, signing nine three-star prospects and scoring players who had big-time offers.

3. FRESNO STATE The Bulldogs always do a great job of developing talent. Fresno State continues to recruit northern California better than anybody else.

4. SAN JOSE STATE The Spartans landed one four-star and two three-star recruits this year, which was a step forward. They also did a nice job finding players who could make an immediate impact.

5. HAWAII Once again, this class is loaded with great players from their own back yard.

6. NEW MEXICO STATE It was a transition season for New Mexico State. With an aggressive new staff aboard, don't expect the Aggies to remain near the bottom of the rankings.

7. IDAHO The Vandals landed two three-star players and did a nice job recruiting talent in California.

8. UTAH STATE A new staff brings hope to Utah State, and with great local ties, expect the Aggies to climb the charts. Also look for more success in California.

9. NEVADA Nevada doesn't win too many recruiting championships, but the Wolf Pack continue to find players they can refine and develop for their units.

ASCENDING

LOUISIANA TECH The Bulldogs ended last season's breakthrough campaign by winning six of their final eight games, including the Independence Bowl. If the offense continues to improve, Louisiana Tech could challenge Boise State for the WAC title.

DESCENDING

SAN JOSE STATE The Spartans are light-years ahead of where they were when Dick Tomey arrived five years ago, but a near-impossible nonconference schedule—featuring trips to USC and Stanford—will undercut another run at bowl eligibility.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

WAC

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1. Boise State
2. Nevada
3. Louisiana Tech
4. Fresno State
5. Hawaii
6. San Jose State
7. Utah State
8. Idaho
9. New Mexico State

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Titus Young, Boise State

Best Hands
Kevin Jurovich, WR, San Jose State

Best Passing QB
Kellen Moore, Boise State

Best Running QB
Colin Kaepernick, Nevada

Most Elusive RB
Lonyae Miller, Fresno State

Best Instincts
Phillip Livas, WR/KR, Louisiana Tech

Best Athlete
Colin Kaepernick, QB, Nevada

Best Under Pressure
Kellen Moore, QB, Boise State

Top NFL Prospect
Kyle Wilson, CB/PR, Boise State

Top Impact Freshman
L.J. Washington, WR, Nevada

Hardest Hitter
Duke Ihenacho, S, San Jose State

Biggest Underachiever
Fresno State

Best Home-Field Advantage
Boise State

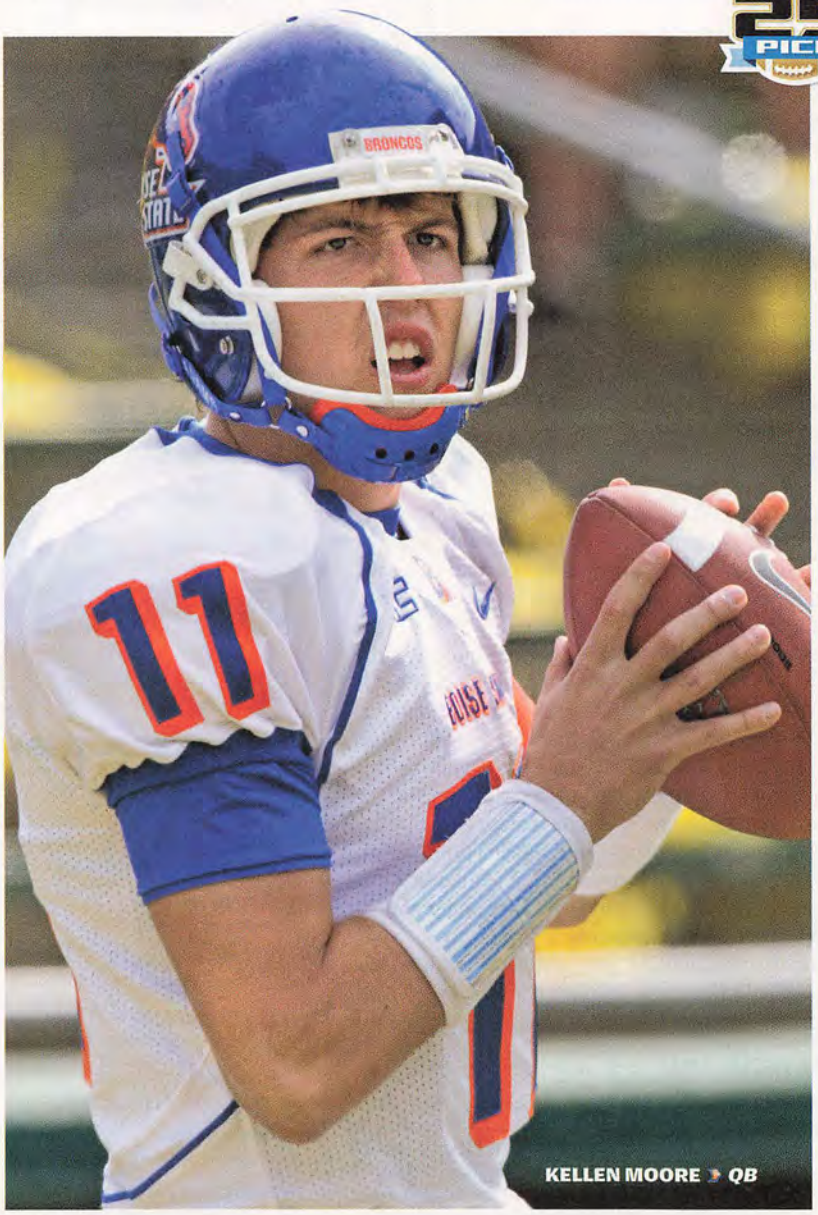
Best Fans
Boise State

Best Mascot
The Warrior, Hawaii

Best Stadium
Bronco Stadium, Boise State

WAC PRESEASON RANK

1 BOISE STATE BRONCOS



KELLEN MOORE » QB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.3	Oregon	37-32
Big game? Only if the Broncos want another undefeated season, which hinges on beating the Ducks for the second year in a row.		
S.12	Miami (OH)	
S.18	@FRESNO STATE	61-10
S.26	@BOWLING GREEN	20-7
O.3	UC Davis	
O.14	@TULSA	
O.24	@HAWAII	27-7
O.31	San Jose State	33-16
N.6	@LOUISIANA TECH	38-3
N.14	Idaho	45-10
N.20	@UTAH STATE	49-14
N.27	Nevada	41-34
D.5	New Mexico State	49-0

BOWL PROJECTION » ORANGE BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » A-

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Young, but experienced at every position.
- Quarterback Kellen Moore could be special.

Nobody in the Western Athletic Conference can rebuild like Boise State.

The Broncos provided a reminder of that last fall when they faced one of the program's most significant overhauls since joining the league in 2001. Things couldn't have worked out much better.

Despite turning to youngsters at many key positions, including freshman quarterback Kellen Moore, Boise State breezed through the regular season and fell just two points from its second perfect campaign in three years.

And that was just the start for this group.

Coming off a 12-1 season and No. 11 ranking in the final *Associated Press* poll, the roster is loaded with at least one player with starting experience at every position. Not only do they head into the fall as the team to beat in the WAC, but all the pieces appear in place to crash the BCS for the second time in four years.

"Expectations are high," said Moore after the Broncos completed spring camp. "But that's what you expect here. That's the reason a lot of us come here."

Fourth-year coach Chris Petersen won't let the squad get ahead of itself. His mantra coming into the season is: "This is a new team."

That might be true, although the Broncos appear headed for familiar territory. Boise State has won at least 10 games eight times in the past decade and is 35-4 under Petersen.

The program has thrived because it doesn't take anything for granted. Last year's dominating run was fueled by the Broncos' drive to win the WAC title. But the Broncos' lasting memory of 2008 was a 17-16 loss to TCU in the Poinsettia Bowl.

"I think the main thing is that we always play with that edge," Petersen says, "with something to prove."

JAY DROWNS

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Kellen Moore

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
13	157.12	405-281-10	69.4	3486	25	268.2

RUSHING

	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jeremy Avery	13	111	614	5.5	4	47.2

RECEIVING

	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Austin Pettis	13	49	567	11.6	9	43.6

DEFENSE

TACKLES

	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Jeron Johnson	13	72	26	98

SACKS

	GP	No.	Yards
Ryan Winterswyk	12	4.5	33

INTERCEPTIONS

	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Kyle Wilson	5	5	1.0	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 12-1
WAC: 8-0
(lost to TCU in the Poinsettia Bowl, 17-16)

Coach: Chris Petersen
4th year (35-4)
Career record: 35-4
Offensive coordinator:
Bryan Harsin (4th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Justin Wilcox (4th year)

Stadium: Bronco Stadium (30,000)
Tickets: 208-426-4737
Site: Boise, Idaho
Official athletic Web site:
www.broncosports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	11	Kellen Moore (6-0, 187, So.)
	7	Mike Coughlin (6-5, 213, Jr.)
FB	40	Richie Brockel (6-2, 248, Sr.)
	47	Dan Paul (6-0, 229, So.)
RB	27	Jeremy Avery (5-9, 168, Jr.)
	6	D.J. Harper (5-9, 192, Jr.)
LOT	72	Matt Slater (6-6, 281, Jr.)
	59	Will Lawrence (6-2, 288, Jr.)
LOG	71	Cory Yriarte (6-1, 285, So.)
	57	Garrett Pendergast (6-4, 288, So.)
C	66	Thomas Byrd (5-11, 275, So.)
	73	Nate Potter (6-6, 272, So.)
ROG	62	Kevin Sapien (6-4, 274, Jr.)
	71	Cory Yriarte (6-1, 285, So.)
ROT	81	Chris Potter (5-11, 170, Fr.)
	70	Zach Waller (6-5, 277, So.)
TE	85	Tommy Gallarda (6-5, 249, So.)
	80	Kyle Efaw (6-4, 228, So.)
WR	87	Austin Pettis (6-3, 202, Jr.)
	89	Tyler Shoemaker (6-1, 214, So.)
WR	4	Titus Young (5-11, 167, Jr.)
	20	Mitch Burroughs (5-9, 190, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	98	Ryan Winterswyk (6-4, 258, Jr.)
	96	Jarrell Root (6-3, 254, So.)
LDT	90	Billy Winn (6-4, 282, So.)
	50	JP Nisby (6-1, 295, So.)
RDT	97	Chase Baker (6-1, 284, So.)
	65	Michael Atkinson (6-0, 320, r-So.)
RDE	92	Shea McClellin (6-3, 255, So.)
	94	Byron Hout (6-1, 225, So.)
SLB	36	Aaron Tevis (6-3, 214, So.)
	48	JC Percy (6-0, 210, Fr.)
MLB	52	Derrell Acrey (6-1, 233, Jr.)
	45	Daron Mackey (6-0, 230, Jr.)
WLB	25	Hunter White (5-11, 211, So.)
	47	Dan Paul (6-0, 229, So.)
LCB	1	Kyle Wilson (5-10, 185, Sr.)
	14	Garcia Day (6-1, 199, Sr.)
RCB	13	Brandyn Thompson (5-10, 180, Jr.)
	21	Jamar Taylor (6-0, 185, So.)
FS	5	Jason Robinson (5-11, 200, Jr.)
	16	Cedric Febis (6-3, 192, So.)
SS	23	Jeron Johnson (5-11, 191, Jr.)
	8	George Iloka (6-3, 202, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	35	Kyle Brotzman (5-10, 179, Jr.)
P	35	Kyle Brotzman (5-10, 179, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	BSU	OPP
SCORING	489	164
Points Per Game	37.6	12.6
FIRST DOWNS	285	228
Rushing	101	92
Passing	163	113
Penalty	21	23
RUSHING YARDAGE	1980	1534
Yards gained rushing	2253	1903
Yards lost rushing	273	369
Rushing Attempts	449	476
Average Per Rush	4.4	3.2
Average Per Game	152.3	118.0
TDs Rushing	28	9
PASSING YARDAGE	3751	2472
Att-Comp-Int	438-298-11	449-234-22
Average Per Pass	8.6	5.5
Average Per Catch	12.6	10.6
Average Per Game	288.5	190.2
TDs Passing	30	8
TOTAL OFFENSE	5731	4006
Total Plays	887	925
Average Per Play	6.5	4.3
Average Per Game	440.8	308.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	27-591	76-1468
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	44-539	18-95
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	22-178	11-222

TEAM STATISTICS	BSU	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.9	19.3
PUNT RETURN AVG.	12.2	5.3
INT RETURN AVG.	8.1	20.2
FUMBLES-LOST	27-15	20-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	93-839	84-745
Average Per Game	64.5	57.3
PUNTS-YARDS	47-2095	75-2979
Average Per Punt	44.6	39.7
Net punt average	39.6	31.5
TIME OF POSS./GAME	28:48	31:12
3RD-DOWN CONV.	70/162	68/209
3rd-Down Pct.	43%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	9/13	10/36
4th-Down Pct.	69%	28%
SACKS BY-YARDS	34-248	13-102
MISC YARDS	0	7
TDS SCORED	63	21
FG-ATTEMPTS	17-26	7-13
PAT-ATTEMPTS	60-61	17-19
ATTENDANCE	193649	175862
Games/Avg Per Game	6/32275	6/29310
Neutral Site Games		1/34628

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Boise State	88	182	138	81	489
Opponent	26	50	45	43	164

The Broncos ache for another shot at perfection, and they'll do it with a young—but experienced—squad. Boise State had 76 freshmen or sophomores among the 104 players on its 2008 bowl roster and enters the fall with just five seniors. All-America cornerback Kyle Wilson, who considered entering the NFL draft before returning, might be the only senior starter.

Despite the experience on the roster, the squad has to fill some big shoes.

The most glaring absence is running back Ian Johnson, who had been the program's most recognizable player since his doing his part in the thrilling finish of the 2006 Fiesta Bowl.

But by the end of last season, the spotlight had already shifted toward Moore, who completed a school-record 69.4 percent of his passes for 3,486 yards. He will be asked to step up this year. Moore was efficient in '08, but didn't stretch the field, despite the arm and the receivers to do so.

With Johnson gone, juniors Jeremy Avery and D.J. Harper will get a chance to shine after showing tremendous promise in complementary roles the past two seasons.

Avery, the MVP of the Hawaii Bowl in 2007, has rushed for 1,286 yards on 214 career carries. Harper rushed for 265 yards last season as the Broncos' No. 3 tailback.

The biggest mystery heading into the fall is the offensive line, although it's not from a lack of candidates. The Broncos have 16 players (six with starting experience) vying for playing time. Because of injuries, the Broncos used 11 starting combinations last season, and the shuffling hasn't stopped. Sophomore center Thomas Byrd appeared to be the only candidate close to locking down a starting spot in the spring.

Returning mostly intact is the Broncos' defensive unit, which allowed just 17 touchdowns last season.

The line is anchored by junior end Ryan Winterswyk, whose 11.5 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks led the team last year. The outside linebacker spots are open, as junior Derrell Acrey returns to claim the middle.

Most importantly, the secondary remains almost the same, anchored by Wilson and junior cornerback Brandyn Thompson. The duo combined for nine interceptions and 16 pass breakups in 2008.

The Broncos will once again boast one of the best special teams units in the conference.

Junior kicker Kyle Brotzman, who doubles as the punter, has yet to miss an extra-point try (106 in a row) and has made 33 of 44 field-goal attempts in his career.

RECRUITING REPORT

Boise State always targets two things first—speed and athleticism. As it turns out, this class has plenty of both. The top three signees in the class are skill position players who were highly recruited by top programs in running back **Malcolm Johnson**, athlete **Ebenezer Makinde** and quarterback **Joe Southwick.** Southwick has all the tools to be the next great Boise State quarterback, and many higher-level programs might wonder how he got away years down the road. The class is heavy on defensive linemen and linebackers.
—Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *MICHAEL ATKINSON, DT*

The 6-0, 320-pound tackle will be a huge addition to the middle of the Broncos' defensive front after redshirting last fall. He also played fullback in high school, rushing for 725 yards his senior year.

2 NEVADA WOLF PACK

Louisiana Tech did it last year, but in 2009 it's Nevada's turn to challenge Boise State as the team to beat in the Western Athletic Conference.

Similar to Hawaii, which toppled the Broncos two years ago, Nevada has a dynamic offense and just enough defense to get the job done. But it'll be a tough road, and one that includes a visit to the blue turf in Idaho.

It's not like Nevada hasn't been a factor in the WAC in recent years. The Wolf Pack set a school record with their fourth consecutive bowl appearance last fall—although it required a big finish to keep that streak alive. After coach Chris Ault said he'd turn down a bowl berth if Nevada finished the regular season with a 6-6 record, the Wolf Pack had to win three of its final four regular-season games, including a 35-31 thriller over Louisiana Tech in the finale, to meet the mandate.

Much of the optimism surrounding the Wolf Pack reflects the return of 15 starters, including the bulk of an offense that averaged 508.5 yards per game and scored more touchdowns than the Broncos (64 to 58) last year.

Nevada's success will fall to quarterback Colin Kaepernick and running back Vai Taua.

Kaepernick, the reigning WAC Offensive Player of the Year, oversees an offense that ranked third in the nation in rushing and fifth in total offense a year ago.

The junior burst onto the scene in 2007 when he replaced injured Nick Graziano at midseason, but only emerged as a bona fide star last fall. He is one of five players in NCAA history to pass for 2,000 yards and rush for 1,000 in a single season.

The Wolf Pack have produced the WAC's leading rusher each of the past two seasons, and both will be back this fall.

Taua stepped in when Luke Lippincott, the WAC rushing champ in '07, went down with a knee injury, and had a better year than his predecessor, rushing for 1,521 yards and 15 touchdowns last season.

Taua should get the bulk of the carries this fall. But Lippincott, who was granted a sixth year of eligibility, appears healthy enough to contribute.

Although the running game will be solid, Nevada must rebuild its receiving corps, as its top two wideouts are gone. Junior Chris Wellington showed flashes last fall and again in the spring. Junior-college transfers Maurice Patterson, Malcolm Shepherd and grayshirt freshman L.J. Washington may also see time.

Ultimately, if the Wolf Pack are going to challenge Boise State, there has to be improvement on defense. Nevada ranked last among Football Bowl Subdivision schools in pass defense last year, a shortcoming that was magnified by a nonconference game against Texas Tech. In all, the unit allowed 31 passing touchdowns and a nation-worst 311.6 passing yards per game.

Not surprisingly, all the secondary spots are up for grabs.

THE NEXT BIG THING

VIRGIL GREEN, TE

The Wolf Pack need to find a group of receivers for quarterback Colin Kaepernick, and the 6-5 junior is an inviting target.

COLIN KAEPERNICK ▸ QB

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
WAC: 5-3
(lost to Maryland in the Humanitarian Bowl, 42-35)

Coach: Chris Ault
25 years (198-91-1)
Career record: 198-91-1
Offensive coordinator:
Chris Klenakis (10th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Nigel Burton (2nd year)

Stadium: Mackay Stadium (29,993)
Tickets: 775-348-PACK
Site: Reno
Official athletic Web site:
www.nevadawolfpack.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

'04	5
'05	9
'06	8
'07	6
'08	7

KEY: Conference Title · Bowl · National Title

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	@ Notre Dame	
The first-ever meeting against the Irish will provide national exposure and a huge springboard into the season, and a win could make Nevada a BCS-bowl buster.		
S.19	@COLORADO STATE	
S.25	Missouri	17-69
O.3	UNLV	49-27
O.9	Louisiana Tech	35-31
O.17	@UTAH STATE	44-17
O.24	Idaho	49-14
O.31	Hawaii	31-38
N.8	@SAN JOSE STATE	41-17
N.14	Fresno State	41-28
N.21	@NEW MEXICO STATE	45-48
N.27	@BOISE STATE	34-41

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» NEW MEXICO BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Nevada has star power at most key positions. They'd grade higher if not for secondary issues.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Colin Kaepernick (6-6, 215, Jr.)
RB	34	Vai Taua (5-10, 225, Jr.)
LOT	50	Mike Gallett (6-6, 295, Jr.)
LOG	62	John Bender (6-8, 325, Jr.)
C	63	Ken Ackerman (6-4, 280, Sr.)
ROG	75	Chris Barker (6-4, 315, Fr.)
ROT	73	Alonzo Durham (6-4, 285, Sr.)
TE	85	Virgil Green (6-5, 225, Jr.)
WR	82	Tray Session (6-3, 175, So.)
WR	14	Chris Wellington (6-1, 185, Jr.)
WR	81	Maurice Patterson (6-3, 200, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	55	Dontay Moch (6-1, 245, Jr.)
LDT	90	Chris Slack (6-5, 270, Sr.)
RDT	95	Nate Agaiava (6-2, 285, Sr.)
RDE	99	Kevin Basped (6-6, 240, Jr.)
SLB	52	James-Michael Johnson (6-2, 220, So.)
MLB	36	Mike Bethea (6-3, 245, Jr.)
WLB	33	Brandon Marshall (6-1, 230, So.)
LCB	45	Antoine Thompson (6-1, 195, Sr.)
RCB	32	Isaiah Frey (6-0, 190, So.)
FS	49	Jonathon Amaya (6-2, 190, Sr.)
SS	25	Mo Harvey (6-3, 210, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Ricky Drake (6-1, 175, Jr.)
P	48	Brad Langley (6-0, 200, Jr.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 **Josh Banks**
DE, 6-4, 230
Banks is a playmaking defensive end who could help immediately.

2 **Maurice Patterson**
WR, 6-3, 200
A physical, strong receiver with solid speed, he should help the Wolf Pack offense immediately.

3 **Cory Smith**
CB, 6-1, 175
Nevada beat Oregon State for this three-star prospect's signature.

4 **David Fales**
QB, 6-2, 190
Fales is the type of underrated quarterback who flourishes in Nevada's system.

5 **Sam Foster**
LB, 6-4, 235
He has the build of a defensive end but the instincts of a linebacker.

PATRICK FALLON / CAL SPORT MEDIA

LOUISIANA TECH BULLDOGS 3

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@AUBURN	
S.12	@NAVY	
S.19	Nicholls State	
S.30	Hawaii	14-24
O.9	@NEVADA	31-35
O.17	New Mexico State	35-31
O.24	@UTAH STATE	45-38
O.31	@IDAHO	46-14
GAME TO WATCH		
N.6	Boise State	3-38
The biggest college game ever in Ruston, La., could be for the WAC title.		
N.14	@LSU	
N.21	@FRESNO STATE	38-35
D.5	San Jose State	21-0

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» Program has made strides but still hasn't peaked.

» A stout defense is only getting better.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	11	Ross Jenkins (6-3, 212, Jr.)
FB	43	Dustin Mitchell (6-4, 252, Sr.)
RB	20	Daniel Porter (5-9, 190, Sr.)
LOT	74	Rob McGill (6-6, 305, Jr.)
LOG	62	Ben Harris (6-4, 295, Sr.)
C	60	Lon Roberts (6-3, 277, Jr.)
ROG	67	Jared Miles (6-3, 324, Jr.)
ROT	76	Cudahy Harmon (6-6, 327, Jr.)
TE	49	Dennis Morris (6-2, 266, Sr.)
WR	6	Phillip Livas (5-8, 175, Jr.)
WR	80	Houston Tuminello (6-0, 173, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	91	Matt Broha (6-4, 228, So.)
LDT	90	Mason Hitt (6-1, 268, Jr.)
RDT	5	D'Anthony Smith (6-2, 300, Sr.)
RDE	93	Christian Lacey (6-1, 230, So.)
SLB	36	Brian White (6-1, 228, Sr.)
MLB	44	Adrien Cole (5-11, 245, So.)
WLB	48	Dusty Rust (6-3, 215, So.)
LCB	28	Terry Carter (5-10, 183, So.)
RCB	35	Olajuwon Paige (5-9, 180, Jr.)
FS	34	Antonio Baker (5-11, 200, Sr.)
SS	25	Deon Young (5-11, 197, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	10	John Hinton (5-9, 170, Fr.)
P	14	Cade Glasgow (6-0, 180, Fr.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
WAC: 5-3
(beat Northern Illinois in the Independence Bowl, 17-10)

Coach: Derek Dooley
3rd year (13-12)
Career record: 13-12
Offensive coordinator:
Frank Scelfo (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Tommy Spangler (3rd year)

Stadium: Joe Aillet Stadium (30,600)
Tickets: 318-257-3631
Site: Ruston
Official athletic Web site:
www.latechsports.com

FRANK DIBRANGO

5-YEAR WINS TREND

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — **Tyrone Duplessis** *RB, 5-6, 181* Duplessis might be tiny, but he's really big on talent and was a great in-state steal.

2 — **Rufus Porter** *LB, 6-0, 200* The underrated Porter was one of the best linebacker prospects in the Southeast.

3 — **Kendrick James** *LB, 6-0, 227* James is a true inside linebacker who was one of New Orleans' top prospects as a senior.

4 — **Chad Boyd** *CB, 5-10, 188* Boyd is another in-state recruiting gem for Tech. He was recruited heavily by SEC programs.

5 — **Quinn Giles** *ATH, 5-10, 185* Giles is a standout athlete who could project at a number of positions in college.

Louisiana Tech was the Western Athletic Conference's biggest success story in 2008, appearing in the school's third bowl game in 20 years. This fall, the team returns enough talent (17 starters) to make a run at Boise State for the conference title and another postseason berth.

The offense was kicked into high gear when Ross Jenkins took over as the starting quarterback a little more than a month into the 2008 season. Jenkins, who completed 92 passes and didn't throw a touchdown to a wide receiver until the 11th game, wasn't the second coming of Bulldog Hall-of-Famer Terry Bradshaw, but he went 6-2 as a starter and proved to be a steady game manager. Also, Jenkins didn't throw an interception in the Bulldogs' final seven games of last season.

Not surprisingly, the offense became more successful with Jenkins, averaging 31.2 points per game in the last six matchups.

Most of the pressure will be on senior running back Daniel Porter, who rushed for 1,164 yards and was the second-best runner in the WAC a year ago. But the Bulldogs need to replace Patrick Jackson (653 yards, 8 TDs), who provided a complement to Porter in '08.

The Bulldogs' breakout star last season was receiver and kick-return man Phillip Livas, who was a threat every time he touched the ball. The 5-8, 175 pound dynamo led the WAC in all-purpose yards with 2,015.

And that performance could have been the tip of the iceberg. It turns out that Livas played last season with a torn meniscus. He had knee surgery over the winter and didn't participate in spring drills but is expected to be at full speed for the start of fall.

The Bulldogs' offensive push coincided with major improvements on defense. Louisiana Tech finished third in the WAC in scoring defense (23.7 ppg) and fourth in total defense last season.

The line returns intact, led by tackle D'Anthony Smith and end Matt Broha.

Ranked 13th nationally against the run last year, the Bulldogs' run defense is solid, but they need to shore things up against the pass. The unit was among the worst in the nation in pass defense (113th), allowing 272.7 yards per game.

All-conference safety Antonio Baker is back, but the Bulldogs need to find two new cornerbacks. The secondary also could see improvement with a better pass rush, which produced 27 sacks last year.

Since the Bulldogs start the season against nonconference teams in Auburn, Navy and Nicholls State, they'll have time to make adjustments before conference action.

Overall, the Bulldogs' confidence has never been higher. After a 3-4 start, they put it all together beginning with a program-altering 38-35 victory over Fresno State.

Louisiana Tech should carry last year's momentum into the fall, ready to make a big statement by the time Boise State comes to Ruston.

THE NEXT BIG THING

PHILLIP LIVAS, WR

One of the most versatile offensive threats in the country, he went unnoticed in '08. That won't happen again.

4 FRESNO STATE BULLDOGS

Coach Pat Hill has led the Bulldogs to a bowl game in nine of his last 12 seasons in the San Joaquin Valley, but recently Fresno State hasn't lived up to its potential. For instance, many expected the Bulldogs to crash the BCS party, but they stumbled to 7-6 last season. After a humiliating 61-10 thrashing by Boise State, the campaign ended with a loss to Colorado State in the New Mexico Bowl.

Much of last season's struggles could be attributed to injuries and tough luck, but it didn't look good when Hill interviewed for the Washington job over the winter before bowing out.

The restoration of the Bulldogs' swagger appears within reach if they exceed modest expectations heading into the season.

Most of the pieces from last year are back, especially on offense. However, the Bulldogs have a new offensive coordinator for the fifth time in five years and must break in a new quarterback. Junior Ryan Colburn, sophomores Matt Faulkner and Ebahn Feathers and freshman Derek Carr waged a spirited battle for the spot in the spring that decided nothing.

The receiving corps is deep too, and it's led by Chastin West and Seyi Ajirotutu.

The defense, which was undercut by injuries last season, could challenge Boise State for the conference's top honors. But it will have to do so without longtime defensive coordinator Dan Brown, who lost his fight with brain cancer earlier this year.

The defense returns nine starters, led by linebacker Ben Jacobs and end Chris Carter. But the unit must beef up against the run, as it allowed 210 rushing yards a game last season.

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» HUMANITARIAN BOWL

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	UC Davis	
S.12	@WISCONSIN	10-13
GAME TO WATCH		
S.19	**Boise State**	**10-61**
The Broncos have always been a thorn in the Bulldogs' side, and as far as conference openers go, it doesn't get much better than this.		
S.26	@CINCINNATI	
0.10	@HAWAII	29-32 (OT)
0.17	San Jose State	24-10
0.24	@NEW MEXICO STATE	24-17
0.31	Utah State	30-28
N.7	@IDAHO	45-32
N.14	@NEVADA	28-41
N.21	Louisiana Tech	35-38
D.5	@ILLINOIS	

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
WAC: 4-4
(lost to Colorado State in the New Mexico Bowl, 40-35)

Coach: Pat Hill
13th year (92-61)
Career record: 92-61
Offensive coordinator:
Derek Frazier (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Jeff Grady (1st year)

Stadium: Bulldog Stadium (41,031)
Tickets: 559-278-DOGS
Site: Fresno, Calif.
Official athletic Web site:
www.gobulldogs.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Ryan Colburn (6-3, 220, Jr.)
FB	48	Reynard Camp (5-11, 270, Sr.)
RB	22	Anthony Harding (6-0, 215, Sr.)
LOT	70	Bryce Harris (6-6, 280, So.)
LOG	52	Richard Pacheco (6-2, 285, Sr.)
C	74	Joe Bernardi (6-2, 280, Jr.)
ROG	69	Andrew Jackson (6-5, 295, Jr.)
ROT	60	Kenny Wiggins (6-7, 210, Jr.)
TE	84	Ryan Skidmore (6-5, 240, So.)
WR	6	Chastin West (6-1, 215, Sr.)
WR	2	Seyi Ajirotutu (6-3, 210, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	43	Chris Carter (6-2, 220, Jr.)
LDT	99	Mark Roberts (6-2, 300, Jr.)
RDT	50	Cornell Banks (6-3, 300, Jr.)
RDE	53	Kyle Knox (6-1, 215, So.)
SLB	30	Nick Bates (6-2, 210, Jr.)
MLB	54	Ben Jacobs (6-3, 225, Jr.)
WLB	55	Nico Herron (6-3, 240, Jr.)
LCB	4	Damion Owens (5-11, 200, Sr.)
RCB	17	Desia Dunn (5-9, 175, So.)
FS	20	Lorne Bell (5-10, 200, Jr.)
SS	3	Moses Harris (5-11, 205, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	35	Kevin Goessling (6-0, 195, So.)
P	42	Robert Malone (6-2, 215, Jr.)

5 HAWAII RAINBOW WARRIORS

Confidence is high at Hawaii, as it appears headed for a rebound after a mediocre 7-7 season last year.

Of course, spirits were up after the Warriors' 2007 campaign in which they had a perfect regular season. But that winter, the program was in turmoil as coach June Jones bolted for SMU, athletic director Herman Frazier was fired and record-breaking quarterback Colt Brennan moved on, along with his entire receiving corps.

Along came coach Greg McMackin, who proved to be the right fit with his enthusiasm for the program's long-term outlook.

After all, he didn't panic during the team's 1-3 start or after a lopsided loss to Notre Dame in the Hawaii Bowl last year.

McMackin wants a balanced program, but he isn't there yet. The Warriors scrambled to find replacements last fall for almost every position on offense.

This year, they'll do the same on defense, as the Warriors are looking to replace a host of starters. The only returning players with experience are linebacker Brashton Satele and end John Fonoti.

The most heated position battles heading into the fall will be in the secondary, as 18 candidates vie for spots, including several junior-college players.

At least the offense is more settled, as quarterback Greg Alexander has secured his position after throwing for 1,895 years and 14 touchdowns in nine games a year ago.

More importantly, he completed 62.9 percent of his passes and had just five interceptions.

While the passing attack should improve with receivers Greg Salas and Malcolm Lane, the big issue will be protecting Alexander. Three new linemen will start for a unit that allowed its signal-caller to be sacked 57 times in '08.

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» HAWAII BOWL

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.4	Central Arkansas	
S.12	@WASHINGTON STATE*	24-10
S.19	@UNLV	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.30	**@LOUISIANA TECH**	**24-14**
A Wednesday night game is the third straight road contest for the Warriors, but it is the most important contest of that stretch.		
0.10	Fresno State	32-29 (OT)
0.17	@IDAHO	49-17
0.24	Boise State	7-27
0.31	@NEVADA	38-31
N.7	Utah State	14-30
N.14	New Mexico State	42-30
N.21	@SAN JOSE STATE	17-20
N.28	Navy	
D.5	Wisconsin	

** at Seattle, WA*

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-7
WAC: 5-3
(lost to Notre Dame in the Hawaii Bowl, 49-21)

Coach: Greg McMackin
2nd year (7-7)
Career record: 7-7
Offensive coordinator:
Ron Lee (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Cal Lee (2nd year)

Stadium: Aloha Stadium (50,000)
Tickets: 808-944-2697
Site: Honolulu
Official athletic Web site:
www.hawaiiathletics.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Greg Alexander (6-3, 230, Sr.)
RB	4	Leon Wright-Jackson (6-1, 215, Sr.)
LOT	77	Aaron Kia (6-5, 290, Sr.)
LOG	64	Ray Hisatake (6-3, 315, Sr.)
C	55	John Estes (6-3, 295, Sr.)
ROG	63	Brysen Ginlack (6-2, 310, Jr.)
ROT	50	Laupepa Letuli (6-4, 320, Sr.)
TE	20	Jon Medeiros (5-9, 195, Sr.)
WR	1	Greg Salas (6-2, 200, Jr.)
WR	21	Kealoha Pilares (5-11, 190, Jr.)
WR	89	Malcolm Lane (6-1, 180, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	90	Elliott Purcell (6-3, 250, Jr.)
LDT	49	Tuika Tufaga (6-2, 285, Sr.)
RDT	95	Vaughn Meatoga (6-2, 305, So.)
RDE	58	John Fonoti (6-2, 255, Sr.)
SLB	53	Blaze Soares (6-1, 235, Sr.)
MLB	13	Brashton Satele (6-1, 255, Sr.)
WLB	59	R.J. Kiesel-Kauhane (5-11, 225, Sr.)
LCB	29	Chris Black (5-10, 175, Sr.)
RCB	26	Jeramy Bryant (5-10, 170, Sr.)
FS	31	Spencer Smith (5-11, 200, Jr.)
SS	43	Mana Silva (6-1, 220, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	98	Brett Symonds (5-10, 145, Fr.)
P	31	Spencer Smith (5-11, 200, Jr.)

SAN JOSE STATE SPARTANS 6

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@USC	
S.12	Utah	
S.19	@STANFORD	10-23
S.26	Cal Poly	
O.10	Idaho	30-24

GAME TO WATCH

0.17 @FRESNO STATE 10-24

The Spartans haven't won in the Central Valley since 1987, and this would be a huge momentum boost heading into their match against Boise State.

O.31	@BOISE STATE	16-33
N.8	Nevada	17-41
N.14	@UTAH STATE	30-7
N.21	Hawaii	20-17
N.28	New Mexico State	31-14
D.5	@LOUISIANA TECH	0-21

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 6-6
WAC: 4-4

Coach: Dick Tomey
5th year (23-25)
Career record: 181-135-7
Offensive coordinator:
Steve Morton (4th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Keith Burns (3rd year)

Stadium: Spartan Stadium (30,456)
Tickets: 877-757-8849
Site: San Jose, Calif.
Official athletic Web site:
www.sjsuspartans.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	7	Kyle Reed (6-3, 215, Sr.)
RB	15	Brandon Rutley (5-10, 180, So.)
LOT	66	John Konye (6-4, 270, Jr.)
LOG	72	Isaac Leatiota (6-4, 295, Jr.)
C	79	Ronnie Castillo (6-0, 292, Sr.)
ROG	73	Ailao Eliapo (6-2, 320, Jr.)
ROT	59	Jon Moreno (6-4, 280, Sr.)
TE	85	Julian Harris (6-2, 250, Sr.)
WR	83	Khalil Paden (6-1, 165, So.)
WR	6	Kevin Jurovich (6-0, 180, Sr.)
WR	9	Marquis Avery (6-4, 205, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	26	Mohamed Marah (6-0, 242, Sr.)
LDT	94	Kalvin Cressel (6-4, 282, Sr.)
RDT	96	Adonis Davis (6-1, 295, Sr.)
RDE	91	Carl Ihenacho (6-3, 245, Sr.)
SLB	48	Ryno Gonzalez (6-1, 215, Jr.)
MLB	14	Travis Jones (6-1, 220, Sr.)
WLB	93	Justin Cole (6-3, 240, Sr.)
LCB	20	Austin Carter (5-10, 180, Sr.)
RCB	30	Ralph Johnson (5-10, 175, So.)
FS	2	Duke Ihenacho (6-1, 200, Jr.)
SS	24	Devin Newsome (5-10, 165, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	35	Philip Zavala (6-1, 200, Sr.)
P	35	Philip Zavala (6-1, 200, Sr.)

The Spartans are looking for redemption after wasting an opportunity to bolster their conference status last fall.

After a 6-3 start in which they appeared to be the only challenger to Boise State for the WAC title, the Spartans endured a torturous three-game losing streak that cost them a winning season and a bowl berth.

Defense carried San Jose State last season and the unit should be solid again this fall, although all eyes are on the offense, which struggled down the stretch in 2008.

But new quarterbacks coach Terry Malley should produce a change for the offense. Malley oversaw some of the most dynamic offensive groups in Arena Football League history with the San Jose SaberCats.

First on Malley's list is to turn quarterback Kyle Reed into the playmaker many expected when he signed with California coming out of high school. After a season on the bench, Reed transferred to San Jose State only to battle a groin injury last year.

Kevin Jurovich, who caught a school-record 85 passes in 2007, is back after missing last season with mono. Joining the Spartans this year will be junior-college transfer Marquis Avery, a big, powerful target who reminds some of former Spartan receiver James Jones.

The woeful running attack should also improve with the installment of junior-college All-American Lamon Muldrow, who will complement speedy sophomore Brandon Rutley.

The defense brings back a solid core, led by end Carl Ihenacho, safety Duke Ihenacho and linebacker Justin Cole, although it will be difficult to duplicate last year's dominating effort after losing three NFL-caliber starters in tackle Jarron Gilbert and cornerbacks Coye Francies and Christopher Owens.

The secondary will be inexperienced.

UTAH STATE AGGIES 7

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.3	@UTAH	10-58
S.19	@TEXAS A&M	
S.26	Southern Utah	
O.2	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	14-34

GAME TO WATCH

0.10 @NEW MEXICO STATE 47-2

Coming off a tough nonconference slate, the Aggies can make a statement in their first conference game against New Mexico State.

O.17	Nevada	17-44
O.24	Louisiana Tech	38-45
O.31	@FRESNO STATE	28-30
N.7	@HAWAII	30-14
N.14	San Jose State	7-30
N.20	Boise State	14-49
N.28	@IDAHO	42-17

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 3-9
WAC: 3-5

Coach: Gary Andersen, 1st year
Offensive coordinator:
Dave Baldwin (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Bill Busch (1st year)

Stadium: Romney Stadium (25,513)
Tickets: 888-878-2831
Site: Logan
Official athletic Web site:
www.utahstateaggies.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Diondre Borel (6-0, 174, Jr.)
RB	6	Robert Turbin (5-10, 202, So.)
LOT	52	Spencer Johnson (6-5, 285, Jr.)
LOG	76	Funaki Asisi (6-3, 295, So.)
C	61	Brennan McFadden (6-2, 294, Sr.)
ROG	68	Philip Gapelu (6-2, 306, So.)
ROT	74	Tariq Polley (6-4, 315, Jr.)
TE	48	Zac Zimmerman (6-6, 252, Sr.)
WR	17	Xavier Bowman (6-3, 195, Sr.)
WR	81	Nnamdi Gwacham (6-3, 205, Sr.)
WR	11	Stanley Morrison (5-9, 151, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	94	Antonio May (6-4, 231, Sr.)
LDT	57	Magnum Mauga (5-11, 306, Jr.)
RDT	54	Nathan Royster (6-0, 252, Jr.)
RDE	37	Quinn Garner (6-3, 236, So.)
SLB	40	Bobby Wagner (6-1, 217, So.)
MLB	32	Jacob Actkinson (6-1, 208, So.)
WLB	31	Paul Igboeli (6-0, 201, Sr.)
LCB	1	Kejon Murphy (5-9, 155, Sr.)
RCB	7	Chris Randle (5-10, 176, Jr.)
FS	3	James Brindley (5-11, 189, Sr.)
SS	20	Maxim Dinka (5-11, 211, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	8	Peter Caldwell (6-4, 236, Jr.)
P	8	Peter Caldwell (6-4, 236, Jr.)

The first thing Gary Andersen asked when he was named the Aggies' new coach in December was, "Why not us? Why not now?"

Why not, indeed.

Despite the program's talent level increasing over the past four seasons under Andersen's predecessor, Brent Guy, wins for the Aggies were rare as the team went 9-38 during that stretch.

Enter Andersen, who arrives in the Cache Valley after spending more than a decade at Utah. Now settling in at Utah State, he's mixing things up—a lot.

Heading into the fall, 15 players have changed positions in an effort to get more athletic on defense.

But if Utah State is going to get into the WAC race, it's going to need a massive overhaul on offense. Luckily, new offensive coordinator Dave Baldwin spent the spring implementing the spread. It should help the 10 returning starters from an offense that averaged just 24 points and 334.2 yards per game last season.

The key to making the transition work is junior quarterback Diondre Borel, who showed signs of life as the starter for the final nine games last year.

But if Borel regresses, junior-college transfer Jeffrey Fischer will be quick to take his place.

The defense took an emotional hit early in spring camp when All-WAC linebacker Jake Hutton announced he wouldn't play because of recurring foot problems.

That was no help to defense that among the WAC's worst in 2008 and needs an overhaul.

As the Aggies move through a transition season this year, their best bet is to work from within. Perhaps they will threaten to end the program's seasonal losing streak, which dates back to 1996 when it was a member of the Big West.

8 IDAHO VANDALS

The rebuilding project in Moscow continues, as Robb Akey's third year is a crucial one for the once-proud program and its energetic coach, who enters the season with a 3-21 record at the school.

The Vandals are coming off a season in which they tied for last place in the WAC, falling by double digits in nine of their 10 setbacks. But Idaho also earned its first WAC victory in more than two years, ending a 22-game losing streak against Football Bowl Subdivision teams.

What's next?

Well, confidence is growing now that the dust has settled from Akey's two-year housecleaning.

The Vandals find themselves with experience, as most of last year's key roles were filled by underclassmen.

The team's biggest strength is running back, where the Vandals' top three rushers in Deonte' Jackson, Princeton McCarty and Troy Vital all return. They'll be joined by Washington State transfer DeMaundray Woolridge.

Jackson rushed for 1,175 yards in 2007 as a freshman and could be a star, although his carries and impact (696 yards) were limited last season because of injuries.

Quarterback Nathan Enderle made strides a year ago (20 TDs, 17 INTs), but if he struggles, junior-college transfer Brian Reader could push him out. Enderle's challenge is more difficult as he plays behind a rebuilt offensive line.

Experience should help a defense that allowed at least 40 points nine times last season and ranked 117th in the nation in scoring defense (42.8 points per game).

The Vandals haven't yet caught up to the second-tier of the WAC in terms of talent, although the roster is more athletic than previous classes. Familiarity should also help.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@NEW MEXICO STATE	20-14
S.12	@WASHINGTON	
GAME TO WATCH		
S.19	**San Diego State**	**17-45**
The Vandals were one of the Aztecs' two wins last season, and it wasn't close (45-17). This rematch will be a good indicator of where Idaho is headed.		
S.26	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
0.3	Colorado State	
0.10	@SAN JOSE STATE	24-30
0.17	Hawaii	17-49
0.24	@NEVADA	14-49
0.31	Louisiana Tech	14-46
N.7	Fresno State	32-45
N.14	@BOISE STATE	10-45
N.28	Utah State	17-42

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 2-10
WAC: 1-7

Coach: Robb Akey
3rd year (3-21)
Career record: 3-21
Offensive coordinator:
Steve Axman (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Mark Criner (3rd year)

Stadium: Kibbie Dome (16,000)
Tickets: 208-885-6466
Site: Moscow
Official athletic Web site:
www.uiathletics.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Nathan Enderle (6-5, 223, Jr.)
RB	3	Deonte' Jackson (5-8, 191, Jr.)
LOT	70	Matt Cleveland (6-4, 310, So.)
LOG	77	Mike Iupati (6-6, 330, Sr.)
C	69	Irvin Stevens (6-3, 274, Sr.)
ROG	62	Adam Juratovac (6-3, 299, Sr.)
ROT	79	Bryce Sinclair (6-5, 327, Sr.)
TE	89	Peter Bjorvik (6-4, 245, Sr.)
WR	7	Preston Davis (6-1, 191, So.)
WR	22	Max Komar (5-10, 202, Sr.)
WR	1	Eric Greenwood (6-6, 205, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	95	Aaron Lavarias (6-3, 262, Jr.)
LDT	93	Michael Cosgrove (6-4, 265, So.)
RDT	99	Jonah Sataraka (6-2, 285, Jr.)
RDE	58	Haroun (Hank) Bryant (6-3, 222, So.)
SLB	34	Joseph Dickson (6-1, 215, Jr.)
MLB	51	Tre'Shawn Robinson (5-11, 243, So.)
WLB	1	Robert Siavii (6-2, 195, So.)
LCB	23	Kenneth Patten (5-9, 183, So.)
RCB	27	Isaac Butts (6-0, 175, Jr.)
FS	6	Jeromy Jones (6-0, 200, Sr.)
SS	10	Shiloh Keo (5-10, 214, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	21	Trey Farquhar (6-1, 175, Fr.)
P	13	Bobby Cowan (6-4, 212, Fr.)

9 NEW MEXICO STATE AGGIES

After 11 wins in four years, Hal Mumme and his "Air Raid" offense were replaced by former UCLA defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker during the offseason.

Walker's biggest job is to restore confidence to a program that ended 2008 with a seven-game losing streak and hasn't been to a bowl game since 1960—the longest drought in FBS football.

There are new schemes and philosophies on both sides of the ball this year, so it's going to take some time to put all the pieces together. However, Walker brought in 12 junior-college transfers in hopes of speeding the transition.

New Mexico State's young defense ranked in the middle of the conference in most categories last year and returns several key players, including linebacker Nick Paden. But the Aggies are instituting a new 4-3 scheme and the secondary is loaded with unproven players.

The biggest changes and challenges will be on offense, which for all its gaudy yards—the Aggies ranked 10th in the nation in passing offense last season—produced surprisingly few touchdowns (25).

Prolific quarterback Chase Holbrook is gone, along with most of his receivers and the pass-happy scheme. As a result, new offensive coordinator Timm Rosenbach spent the spring teaching a more balanced attack that places greater emphasis on ball control. That means more work for tailbacks Marquell Colston, Tonny Glynn and fullback Brandon Perez, who have all shown flashes of talent but were underutilized by the previous regime.

Junior-college transfer Jeff Fleming and redshirt freshman Trevor Walls lead the quarterback derby. Whoever wins the job will work with an inexperienced receiving corps led by Marcus Anderson, who moves into the No. 1 spot, and an untested offensive line.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	**Idaho**	**14-20**
The first of three home games to open the DeWayne Walker era will give the Aggies a good idea of where their talent level stands.		
S.12	Prairie View A&M	
S.19	UTEP	34-33
S.26	@NEW MEXICO	24-35
0.3	@SAN DIEGO STATE	
0.10	Utah State	2-47
0.17	@LOUISIANA TECH	31-35
0.24	Fresno State	17-24
0.31	@OHIO STATE	
N.14	@HAWAII	30-42
N.21	Nevada	48-45
N.28	@SAN JOSE STATE	14-31
D.5	@BOISE STATE	0-49

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 3-9
WAC: 1-7

Coach: DeWayne Walker, 1st year

Offensive coordinator:

Timm Rosenbach (1st year)

Defensive coordinator:

DeWayne Walker (1st year)

Stadium: Aggie Memorial Stadium (30,343)
Tickets: 505-646-1420
Site: Las Cruces
Official athletic Web site:
www.nmstatesports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	9	Jeff Fleming (6-4, 195, So.)
RB	3	Marquell Colston (5-9, 205, Sr.)
LOT	62	Michael Grady (6-3, 302, So.)
LOG	76	Chuck Taylor (6-3, 345, Jr.)
C	78	Kyle Smith (6-6, 312, Jr.)
ROG	67	Joseph Palmer (6-3, 308, Sr.)
ROT	73	Patrick Blount (6-3, 275, Jr.)
TE	17	Kyle Nelson (6-4, 232, Jr.)
WR	10	Marcus Anderson (5-8, 166, Sr.)
WR	5	Julius Fleming (5-8, 162, So.)
WR	7	Todd Lee (5-9, 155, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	39	Spencer Diaz (6-5, 206, Jr.)
LDT	99	Dejuan Yates (6-2, 280, Jr.)
RDT	92	Vincent Federico (6-4, 290, Jr.)
RDE	52	Donte Savage (6-1, 229, So.)
SLB	56	Sam King (6-0, 223, Sr.)
MLB	42	Nick Paden (6-3, 235, Sr.)
WLB	9	Jason Scott (5-10, 207, Sr.)
LCB	4	Davon House (6-0, 172, Jr.)
RCB	15	Junior Fasavalu (6-0, 191, Sr.)
FS	2	Alphonso Powell (5-9, 182, Jr.)
SS	8	Chris Buckner (6-0, 188, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	96	Kyle Hughes (6-0, 184, So.)
P	96	Kyle Hughes (6-0, 184, So.)

ALL-MOUNTAIN WEST

OFFENSE

- QB Max Hall, Sr., BYU
- RB Harvey Unga, Jr., BYU
- RB Asher Clark, So., Air Force
- OL Zane Beadles, Sr., Utah
- OL Nick Charles, Sr., Air Force
- OL Shelley Smith, Sr., Colorado State
- OL Marshall Newhouse, Sr., TCU
- OL Erik Cook, Sr., New Mexico
- TE Dennis Pitta, Sr., BYU
- WR Rashaun Greer, Sr., Colorado State
- WR Ryan Wolfe, Sr., UNLV

DEFENSE

- DL Jerry Hughes, Sr., TCU
- DL Jan Jorgensen, Sr., BYU
- DL Koa Misi, Sr., Utah
- DL John Fletcher, Sr., Wyoming
- LB Stevenson Sylvester, Sr., Utah
- LB Jason Beauchamp, Sr., UNLV
- LB Ken Lamendola, Jr., Air Force
- DB Rafael Priest, Sr., TCU
- DB Nick Sanders, Sr., TCU
- DB Chris Thomas, Sr., Air Force
- DB Chris Prosinski, Jr., Wyoming

SPECIALISTS

- K Mitch Payne, Jr., BYU
- P Austin McCoy, So., Wyoming

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 The record for the largest crowd to ever watch a football game in the state of Wyoming will be set Sept. 12 when Texas comes to War Memorial Stadium to face the Cowboys. It will likely be the first loss for first-year coach Dave Christensen.

2 Air Force will win the Commander-in-Chief Trophy by beating Navy Oct. 3 and Army Nov. 7. The Falcons should have won it last year but let the Midshipmen off the hook at home, falling 33-27.

3 UNLV head coach Mike Sanford will deliver the Rebels to a bowl game for the first time since he was an assistant at Utah in 2004. Sanford has the offense to do it.

4 San Diego State first-year coach Brady Hoke will get off to a 2-1 start with wins over Southern Utah and Idaho after losing to UCLA in his Sept. 5 debut. After that, conference wins will be tough.

Utes primed for another BCS run but will face challenges from BYU, TCU

By Steve Carp, *Las Vegas Review-Journal*

The shockwaves are still reverberating months after Utah walloped Alabama 31-17 in the Sugar Bowl.

How could a team from the Mountain West Conference compete with the mighty Southeastern Conference, much less beat the tar out of one of its BCS-quality squads?

Had anyone watched the Utes compete in the Mountain West, they might have foreseen what transpired inside the Louisiana Superdome Jan. 2. Or perhaps they need only refer to their history books from 2004, when the Utes handled Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl.

Coach Kyle Whittingham used a veteran quarterback, quality interior linemen on both sides of the ball and filled the gaps with enough athletes at the skill positions to have a magical 2008 season. In doing so, Utah earned the MWC respect.

Of course, the Utes never got a chance to play for the big prize. The Mountain West will again likely be on the outside looking in when the BCS title game is contested—even with MWC commissioner Craig Thompson's campaigning on Capitol Hill.

Still, the league had another good year, placing five teams in bowl games and going 3-2 in those contests.

Both TCU and BYU, who were predicted to contend for the top spot a year ago only to get run over by Utah, are coming off good seasons. New coach Steve Fairchild did an outstanding job getting Colorado State turned around in 2008. UNLV showed signs of life but stumbled in its final game against San Diego State, which, despite ending its season on the uptick, decided to make a coaching change.

In fact, three schools—San Diego State, New Mexico and Wyoming—all have new head coaches. And the mandate will be to do what Fairchild did at Colorado State and quickly turn a losing program into a bowl-eligible enterprise.

That may not be realistic given that Utah, BYU, TCU and Air Force aren't going away anytime soon. And don't expect any slippage from Colorado State or UNLV either.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

1. UTAH The Utes finished in the national recruiting rankings as the top non-Big Six program. This class should help Utah remain the best of the Mountain West.

2. TCU The Horned Frogs didn't fall too far behind Utah in the national rankings. The talent is deep, which should help TCU remain one of the league's best.

3. BYU The Cougars continue to do a tremendous job locally, and the strength they have with players of the Mormon faith is tremendous.

4. UNLV The Rebels took some major strides on the field this past season and capitalized on a great year for talent in the state of Nevada.

5. WYOMING It was a transition year for the Cowboys, but they did a lot of damage. Look for Wyoming to be competitive in Big 12 territory.

6. NEW MEXICO A new coaching staff brought a lot of excitement to the program. They have ties to many regions now, and it should help with recruiting.

7. COLORADO STATE The Rams have become one of the fastest-rising programs in the Mountain West, so look for them to continue climbing the recruiting charts.

8. SAN DIEGO STATE There was a coaching change in San Diego, and it's unfair to judge the new staff based on this group. The Brady Hoke hire has California talent looking at SDSU again.

9. AIR FORCE The Falcons have never registered high in the recruiting rankings, but they continue to win a lot of games.

ASCENDING

UNLV Earning five wins last season after three straight years of just two victories is a step in the right direction. With quarterback Omar Clayton, that five should be a six or seven this year.

DESCENDING

NEW MEXICO The team's 2-6 conference record from a year ago is troublesome, and with 13 starters gone, first-year coach Mike Locksley has his work cut out for him.

Mtn. WEST

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

MOUNTAIN WEST

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1. Utah
2. BYU
3. TCU
4. Air Force
5. Colorado State
6. UNLV
7. New Mexico
8. San Diego State
9. Wyoming

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Jimmy Young, TCU

Best Hands
Phillip Payne, WR, UNLV

Best Passing QB
Max Hall, BYU

Best Running QB
Tim Jefferson, Air Force

Most Elusive RB
John Mosure, Colorado State

Best Instincts
Ryan Wolfe, WR, UNLV

Best Athlete
Robert Johnson, S, Utah

Best Under Pressure
Mitch Payne, K, BYU

Top NFL Prospect
Jerry Hughes, DE, TCU

Hardest Hitter
Nick Sanders, CB, TCU

Biggest Underachiever
Karsten Sween, QB, Wyoming

Best Home-Field Advantage
BYU

Best Fans
New Mexico

Best Mascot
Monty Montezuma, San Diego State

Best Stadium
LaVell Edwards Stadium, BYU

MOUNTAIN WEST PRESEASON RANK

1 UTAH UTES

TOP 25 PICK

MATT ASIATA » RB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.3	Utah State	58-10
S.12	@SAN JOSE STATE	
S.19	@OREGON	
S.26	Louisville	
0.10	@COLORADO STATE	49-16
0.17	@UNLV	42-21
0.24	Air Force	30-23
0.31	Wyoming	40-7
N.7	New Mexico	13-10
N.14	@TCU	13-10
N.21	San Diego State	63-14
N.28	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	48-24

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 @OREGON

If the Utes want to continue to remain in the national spotlight, they'll need to win games like this. It will be interesting to see how Utah's new faces respond to playing in the frenzied atmosphere of Autzen Stadium.

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» POINSETTIA BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE » B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» There's depth to fill the holes at key positions, but these players are still untested on Saturdays.

Once the celebration of winning the Sugar Bowl had ended, Utah coach Kyle Whittingham and his staff realized they had work to do if the Utes were to repeat last year's success in 2009.

Utah will have to replace a quarterback, punter and kicker, as well as various positions on defense.

But when you're the king, it's not easy to be pushed off your throne. So while there's no question Utah will miss quarterback Brian Johnson, kicker/punter Louie Sakoda, defensive end Paul Kruger and cornerbacks Sean Smith and Brice McCain, Whittingham knew this day was coming, and he was prepared.

Not only did Utah sign an outstanding class of recruits, it returns 24 redshirt freshmen in 2009. Throw in three players back from their church missions and there will be enough quality to fill the holes created by those who have departed.

The big question is, who will play quarterback? Junior Corbin Louks has the inside track because of past experience. But redshirt freshman DeVonte Christopher is an outstanding athlete, who may be better suited to run Utah's spread offense.

Louks has the job heading into fall practice, but he's not locked in.

The Utes have a good tandem in the backfield as bruising senior Matt Asiata (707 rushing yards) teams with elusive junior Eddie Wide (6.1 yards per carry) to give Utah a nice inside-outside threat.

The offensive line is the team's strongest unit, and it's anchored by All-America candidate Zane Beadles. Beadles, along with guard Caleb Schlauderaff and center Zane Taylor, give Utah a tough left side.

Despite losing all their starters at wide receiver, the Utes believe they have talented replacements in David Reed, Aiona Key, Jereme Brooks and Elijah Wesson. And if the NCAA grants John Peel an eligibility extension, there will be an additional receiver pushing for playing time.

Defensively, Utah will continue to be a force. End Koa Misi (68 tackles, 8.5 for loss) had the luxury of playing alongside Kruger last year. Now, he will anchor the line.

At linebacker, All-American Stevenson Sylvester (73 tackles) had three sacks in the Sugar Bowl win over

MARVIN GENTRY / US PRESSWIRE

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Corbin Louks

GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
9	181.94	4-7-0	57.1	104	0	11.6

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Matt Asiata	13	146	707	4.8	12	54.4

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Jereme Brooks	13	30	331	11.0	1	25.5

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Mike Wright	13	35	46	81

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Stevenson Sylvester	13	3.5	23

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Robert Johnson	4	7	1.8	0

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 13-0
Mountain West: 8-0
(beat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, 31-17)

Coach: Kyle Whittingham
5th year (37-14)
Career record: 37-14
Offensive coordinator:
Dave Schramm (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Kalani Sitake (1st year)

Stadium: Rice-Eccles Stadium (45,017)
Tickets: 801-581-8849
Site: Salt Lake City
Official athletic Web site:
www.utahutes.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	19	Corbin Louks (6-0, 190, Jr.)
	15	DeVonte Christopher (6-1, 190, r-Fr.)
RB	4	Matt Asiata (5-11, 230, Sr.)
	36	Eddie Wide (5-10, 195, Jr.)
LOT	68	Zane Beadles (6-4, 305, Sr.)
	67	Derek Tuimauga (6-4, 304, Fr.)
LOG	72	Caleb Schlauderaff (6-4, 300, Jr.)
	74	Sam Brenner (6-3, 291, Fr.)
C	77	Zane Taylor (6-2, 300, Jr.)
	57	Tyler Williams (6-1, 282, Sr.)
ROG	55	Neli A'asa (6-2, 288, Jr.)
	71	Walter Watts (6-2, 296, Jr.)
ROT	70	Tony Bergstrom (6-6, 300, So.)
	75	Viliamu Nau (6-6, 300, Sr.)
TE	80	Chris Joppru (6-6, 267, Sr.)
	84	Brad Clifford (6-4, 250, Jr.)
WR	16	David Reed (6-0, 190, Sr.)
	9	Aiona Key (6-4, 209, Sr.)
WR	85	Jereme Brooks (5-7, 170, Jr.)
	8	Elijah Wesson (5-11, 190, Sr.)
WR	82	John Peel (6-1, 185, Sr.)
	26	Ryan Lacy (5-10, 184, Fr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	90	Derrick Shelby (6-3, 250, So.)
	44	Dave Kruger (6-5, 272, Fr.)
LDT	43	Lei Talamaivao (6-2, 280, So.)
	98	Sealver Siliga (6-3, 311, So.)
RDT	92	Kenape Eliapo (6-0, 310, Sr.)
	96	Junior Tui'one (6-4, 274, Jr.)
RDE	41	Koa Misi (6-3, 256, Sr.)
	94	Christian Cox (6-1, 248, Jr.)
SLB	59	Kepa Gaison (5-10, 215, Sr.)
	42	Nai Fotu (6-0, 235, Jr.)
MLB	20	Mike Wright (6-2, 239, Sr.)
	50	Mo Neal (6-2, 221, So.)
WLB	10	Stevenson Sylvester (6-2, 224, Sr.)
	32	Chaz Walker (5-11, 213, So.)
LCB	27	Brandon Burton (6-0, 184, So.)
	6	Kamaron Yancy (5-9, 187 Jr.)
RCB	25	R.J. Stanford (5-11, 184, Sr.)
	24	Justin Jones (5-9, 180, Sr.)
FS	17	Robert Johnson (6-2, 195, Sr.)
	28	Reggie Topps (5-11, 180, Fr.)
SS	12	Joe Dale (5-11, 200, Sr.)
	33	Justin Taplin-Ross (6-3, 208, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	30	Ben Vroman (6-0, 203, Sr.)
P	95	Sean Sellwood (6-3, 200, r-Fr.)

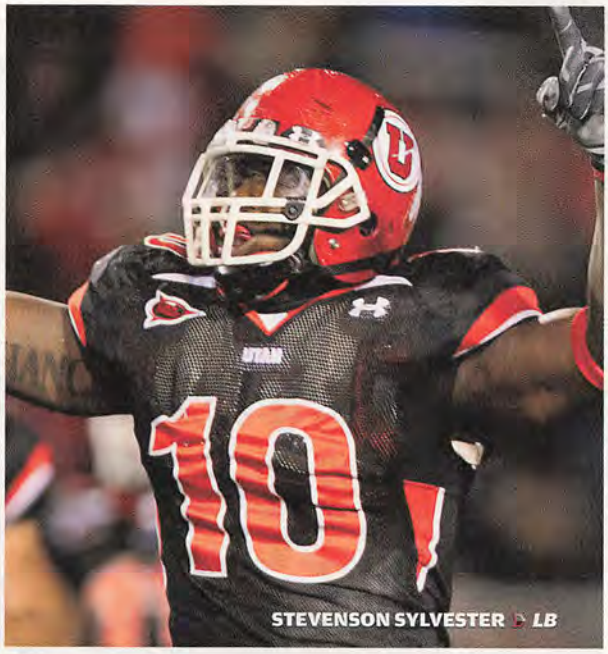
Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	UTAH	OPP
SCORING	480	224
Points Per Game	36.9	17.2
FIRST DOWNS	282	209
Rushing	112	78
Passing	154	103
Penalty	16	28
RUSHING YARDAGE	2034	1289
Yards gained rushing	2361	1658
Yards lost rushing	327	369
Rushing Attempts	499	415
Average Per Rush	4.1	3.1
Average Per Game	156.5	99.2
TDs Rushing	24	10
PASSING YARDAGE	3178	2470
Att-Comp-Int	414-279-9	409-225-19
Average Per Pass	7.7	6.0
Average Per Catch	11.4	11.0
Average Per Game	244.5	190.0
TDs Passing	29	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	5212	3759
Total Plays	913	824
Average Per Play	5.7	4.6
Average Per Game	400.9	289.2
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	37-851	46-1003
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	33-211	10-101
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	19-335	9-118

TEAM STATISTICS	UTAH	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	23.0	21.8
PUNT RETURN AVG.	6.4	10.1
INT RETURN AVG.	17.6	13.1
FUMBLES-LOST	23-9	21-12
PENALTIES-YARDS	90-817	91-661
Average Per Game	62.8	50.8
PUNTS-YARDS	57-2357	78-3034
Average Per Punt	41.4	38.9
Net punt average	35.7	35.2
TIME OF POSS./GAME	32:21	27:38
3RD-DOWN CONV.	82/181	54/178
3rd-Down Pct.	45%	30%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	10/15	6/15
4th-Down Pct.	67%	40%
SACKS BY-YARDS	29-224	25-154
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	59	28
FG-ATTEMPTS	22-24	11-19
PAT-ATTEMPTS	56-57	23-24
ATTENDANCE	273250	231800
Games/Avg Per Game	6/45542	6/38633
Neutral Site Games		1/71872

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Utah	117	152	83	128	480
Opponent	54	75	40	55	224


STEVENSON SYLVESTER ▷ LB

Alabama. The Utes' defense has only one question mark: Nai Fotu's health. The linebacker was held out of spring drills following knee surgery, but if he's good to go, Utah's defense will benefit.

In the secondary, the Utes are in good shape with safeties Robert Johnson and Joe Dale. But the losses of Smith and McCain will be tough to overcome. R.J. Stanford, who played in nickel packages a year ago, starts at one corner while Brandon Burton will likely man the other spot.

But while Johnson, Kruger, Smith and McCain will be missed, Sakoda's departure may be the biggest void for Whittingham to fill. Not only was he an effective kicker, Sakoda was an outstanding punter. So in reality, Whittingham has two special-teams spots to fill.

Entering the competition at kicker are senior Ben Vroman, who has handled the kickoff chores the past three years; sophomore Coleman Peterson and junior-college transfer Joe Phillips. The punting chores will likely to go to redshirt freshman Sean Sellwood.

Utah's biggest strength was its ability to win close games. No doubt, a lot of that had to do with Johnson's experience at quarterback and the defense's ability to get stops.

So if the Utes hope to repeat, they'll need to find a way to keep that trend going.

RECRUITING REPORT

The strength of this year's class is in the trenches. Utah landed five-star defensive end **James Aiono**, the nation's top junior-college player, who will lead the way on the defensive line. But don't forget about tackles **Latu Heimuli, Siosaia Tuipulotu** and **Jeremiah Tofaeono.** On the other side of the ball, the Utes are led by guards **Vyncent Jones, Percy Taumoelau** and **Kapua Sai.** Junior-college transfer **Terrance Cain** is a talented dual-threat quarterback who enrolled in January. **Conroy Black, Maxwell Lacy** and **Kamaron Yancy** are defensive backs who can run.
–Jeremy Crabtree, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *SEAN SELLWOOD, K*

The kicking game at Utah was sensational during the Louie Sakoda era. Now the 6-3, 200-pound redshirt freshman Sellwood takes over the punting duties. And with his big leg, the Utes shouldn't miss a beat on special teams.

MITCH DUMKE / UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SPORTS INFORMATION

2 BRIGHAM YOUNG COUGARS

In his four years as coach, Bronco Mendenhall has brought a level of consistency to the program.

Four straight bowl games, two Mountain West titles and Top 25 rankings in each of the last three campaigns prove Mendenhall's vision.

But last season didn't end as well as Cougars fans would have liked, even though BYU finished with a 10-3 record.

When you round out the season with a loss to your state rival (which goes on to win a BCS bowl game) and then lose your own bowl game, that's a tough way to go out. So the challenge for the Cougars in 2009 is to start fast and finish faster.

The fast start may not be easy, as BYU opens its season against Oklahoma in the Dallas Cowboys' new stadium on Sept. 5. The following week, the Cougars play Tulane at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. And when they finally get outside on Sept. 19 for their home opener, the opponent will be Florida State, hardly a gimmee.

Fortunately for Cougars fans, quarterback Max Hall, BYU's Heisman Trophy candidate, is not afraid of a challenge. Ranking ninth nationally in total offense (313.2 yards per game) last year, Hall had 35 touchdowns, seven of which came in BYU's 59-0 rout of UCLA.

Unfortunately, Hall's favorite targets Austin Collie and Michael Reed are gone. Collie entered in the NFL draft after his junior year and Reed graduated. But Hall may have a new favorite receiver in McKay Jacobson, who returns after serving his Mormon mission in Japan. In 2006, Jacobson turned in a great freshman campaign with 28 catches for 574 yards and three touchdowns. BYU also has an outstanding tight end in Dennis Pitta, a unanimous first-team all-conference pick in '08.

If Hall decides to run the ball, he can give it to bruising 239-pound running back Harvey Unga, who has had back-to-back 1,000-yard seasons. Bolstering the backfield is Bryan Kariya (5.6 yards per carry) and sophomore J.J. Di Luigi.

The Mountain West's career sacks leader with 24, Jan Jorgensen leads a defense that has had its ups and downs. Giving the Cougars a push up front are Bernard Afutiti, Brett Denney and Russell Tialavea.

There is experience at linebacker, as Matt Bauman, Coleby Clawson and Shawn Doman all return. They are athletic and versatile, and will complement the front line. Weakness comes from the secondary, where Scott Johnson is the lone player with serious experience.

Kicker Mitch Payne and punter Tyler Holt are both strong on special teams, but O'Neill Chambers is the dangerous threat on punt and kickoff returns. He'll look to give the offense good field position whenever he gets his hands on the ball.

BYU has enough weapons to make a case for the Mountain West title chase, especially since the Cougars have the best quarterback in the league. To see them celebrating with the MWC championship trophy in November would not be a surprise. After all, they've already done it a couple of times in the Mendenhall era.

DENNIS PITTA ▷ TE

JAY DROWNS / SN

THE NEXT BIG THING

MATT REYNOLDS, LT

A 2008 Freshman All-American, Reynolds will anchor a line that has four new starters.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 10-3
Mountain West: 6-2
(lost to Arizona in the Las Vegas Bowl, 31-21)

Coach: Bronco Mendenhall 5th year (38-13)
Career record: 38-13
Offensive coordinator: Robert Anae (5th year)
Defensive coordinator: Jamie Hill (2nd year)

Stadium: LaVell Edwards Stadium (64,045)
Tickets: 800-322-BYU1
Site: Provo, Utah
Official athletic Web site: www.byucougars.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	**@OKLAHOMA***	
In the season opener, the Cougars will get a taste of the big time by playing the Sooners in the Dallas Cowboys' fancy new playpen.		
S.12	@TULANE	
S.19	Florida State	
S.26	Colorado State	45-42
0.2	Utah State	34-14
0.10	@UNLV	42-35
0.17	@SAN DIEGO STATE	41-12
0.24	TCU	7-32
N.7	@WYOMING	44-0
N.14	@NEW MEXICO	21-3
N.21	Air Force	38-24
N.28	Utah	24-48

** at Arlington, Texas*

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» LAS VEGAS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» With the best quarterback in the league, the Cougars figure to be a factor in every game.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	15	Max Hall (6-1, 201, Sr.)
RB	45	Harvey Unga (6-0, 239, Jr.)
LOT	70	Matt Reynolds (6-6, 320, So.)
LOG	60	Terence Brown (6-3, 351, So.)
C	64	R.J. Willing (6-5, 310, Sr.)
ROG	73	Jason Speredon (6-5, 305, Jr.)
ROT	76	Braden Hansen (6-6, 286, Fr.)
TE	32	Dennis Pitta (6-5, 248, Sr.)
WR	6	McKay Jacobson (5-11, 192, So.)
WR	29	Luke Ashworth (6-2, 201, Jr.)
WR	11	O'Neill Chambers (6-2, 209, So.)

DEFENSE

LDE	84	Jan Jorgensen (6-3, 259, Sr.)
NT	52	Russell Tialavea (6-3, 286, Sr.)
RDE	90	Benard Afutiti (6-1, 262, Jr.)
LOLB	35	Matt Bauman (6-1, 229, Sr.)
LILB	51	Matt Ah You (5-11, 220, Jr.)
RILB	42	Shawn Doman (6-2, 232, Sr.)
ROLB	41	Coleby Clawson (6-3, 234, Sr.)
LCB		Brian Logan (5-9, 195, Jr.)
RCB		Lee Aguirre (5-9, 200, Jr.)
FS	21	Scott Johnson (5-11, 188, Sr.)
SS	22	Andrew Rich (6-3, 215, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	38	Mitch Payne (6-2, 210, Sr.)
P	31	Tyler Holt (5-9, 177, So.)

Sporting News All-American

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
Craig Bills
S, 6-1, 196
Bills isn't the fastest or strongest player at the position, but he makes a ton of plays.

2
Kyle Van Noy
LB, 6-4, 209
He will redshirt this season, but after that, look for Van Noy to take off as one of the Cougars' best athletes.

3
Terry Alletto
OL, 6-4, 280
A true interior lineman, Alletto has deep family connections with BYU and should be a star.

4
Richard Wilson
TE, 6-3, 223
He could have signed with many BCS programs, but Wilson is staying home and will be a flex tight end.

5
Brett Thompson
WR, 6-3, 205
Thompson is a solid possession receiver with more than adequate speed.

TEXAS CHRISTIAN HORNED FROGS 3

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.12	@VIRGINIA	
S.19	Texas State	

GAME TO WATCH

S.26 @CLEMSON

TCU's athleticism will be put to the test as the Horned Frogs try to contain the speedy Tigers in this hostile environment.

0.3	SMU	48-7
0.10	@AIR FORCE	44-10
0.17	Colorado State	13-7
0.24	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	32-7
0.31	UNLV	44-14
N.7	@SAN DIEGO STATE	41-7
N.14	Utah	10-13
N.21	@WYOMING	54-7
N.28	New Mexico	26-3

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» ARMED FORCES BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B+

TEACHER COMMENTS

» The defense remains one of the best and with Dalton's progress at QB, the offense figures to hold up its end too.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	14	Andy Dalton (6-3, 215, Jr.)
FB	48	Luke Shivers (6-0, 220, So.)
RB	18	Ryan Christian (5-11, 180, Sr.)
LOT	70	Marshall Newhouse (6-3, 317, Sr.)
LOG	72	Kyle Dooley (6-3, 310, So.)
C	76	Jake Kirkpatrick (6-3, 305, Jr.)
ROG	78	Josh Vernon (6-2, 295, Jr.)
ROT	61	Marcus Cannon (6-5, 350, Jr.)
TE	84	Evan Frosch (6-4, 260, Jr.)
WR	88	Jimmy Young (6-1, 200, Jr.)
WR	6	Bart Johnson (6-1, 190, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	98	Jerry Hughes (6-3, 257, Sr.)
LDT	69	Kelly Griffin (6-1, 295, Jr.)
RDT	96	Wayne Daniels (6-2, 250, Jr.)
RDE	52	Ross Forrest (6-4, 242, So.)
SLB	19	Daryl Washington (6-3, 228, Sr.)
MLB	43	Tank Carder (6-2, 232, So.)
WLB	41	Corderra Hunter (6-2, 220, Sr.)
LCB	20	Nick Sanders (5-10, 174, Sr.)
RCB	10	Rafael Priest (5-10, 181, Sr.)
FS	3	Tejay Johnson (6-1, 212, Jr.)
SS	25	Sir Demarco Bledsoe (6-2, 195, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	37	Ross Evans (5-11, 180, So.)
P	47	Anson Kelton (6-4, 260, So.)

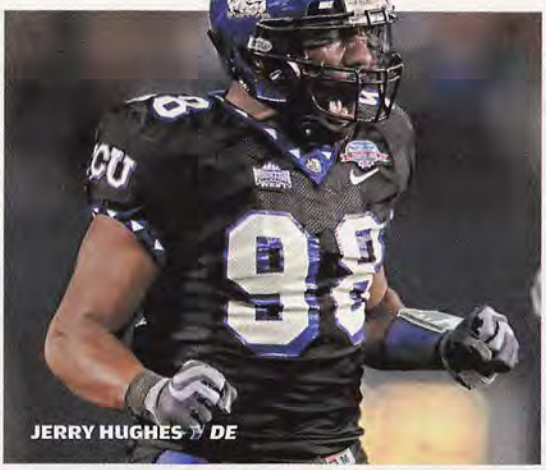
Sporting News All-American

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 11-2
Mountain West: 7-1
(beat Boise State in the Poinsettia Bowl, 17-16)

Coach: Gary Patterson
9th year (73-27)
Career record: 73-27
Offensive coordinator:
Jarrett Anderson (1st year)
Defensive coordinators:
Justin Fuente (1st year)
Dick Bumpas (6th year)

Stadium: Amon G. Carter Stadium (44,008)
Tickets: 817-257-FROG
Site: Fort Worth
Official athletic Web site:
www.gofrogs.com



JERRY HUGHES » DE

CHRISTOPHER HANEWINCKEL / US PRESSWIRE

5-YEAR WINS TREND

It says something about a program when a team finishes 11-2 and players use that "disappointment" as motivation during the offseason.

In 2008, the Horned Frogs notched double-digit wins and beat nationally ranked Boise State in the Poinsettia Bowl, but there was no Mountain West regular-season title. And there was no BCS bowl game.

When you factor in Utah's success in 2008, TCU has plenty of incentive to become one of the nation's elite this season.

Boasting arguably the best defense in the nation anchored by one of the country's best linemen, there's a good chance big things will happen.

End Jerry Hughes, a first-team All-American, makes TCU a dangerous team. Last year, he led the nation with 15 sacks, had six forced fumbles and a pair of interceptions.

But Hughes wasn't the only player on the field.

TCU's stacked defense allowed just 47.1 yards rushing per game, tops in the nation.

This fall, however, only four starters are back—Hughes, cornerbacks Rafael Priest and Nick Sanders and safety Tejay Johnson. Priest and Sanders have started every game the last three seasons.

But Braylon Broughton, Ross Forrest, Wayne Daniels and Kelly Griffin all have experience to work with Hughes up front, while Daryl Washington, Tank Carder, Corderra Hunter and Tanner Brock should give TCU depth at linebacker.

Offensively, scoring needs to pick up.

Quarterback Andy Dalton, one of the more underrated players in the conference, had just five interceptions in 307 passing attempts in 2008. With improved decision-making skills, the junior should have his best year to date.

In wideout Jimmy Young (59 catches, 988 yards), Dalton has a great target. Bart Johnson and Jeremy Kerley, who had 26 receptions between them last year, should increase their numbers in 2009 as Dalton gets them more involved in the offense.

Dalton will have plenty of time in the pocket thanks to offensive tackles Marshall Newhouse and Marcus Cannon, who return along with guard Kyle Dooley.

Still, TCU needs to replace three-time all-conference center Blake Schlueter. Junior Jake Kirkpatrick will likely be the successor.

Patterson has done a great job in his eight years at TCU and Year 9 figures to be no different. He has the components in place to challenge Utah and BYU for the league championship, and one thing is certain: This team will not be lacking any motivation after falling short of the title last year.

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 Waymon James
RB, 5-8, 203
He has all the tools to be the next great running back in a long line of greats at TCU.

2 Casey Pachall
QB, 6-4, 189
He's the type of steady quarterback who flourishes in the Horned Frogs' offense.

3 Jurell Thompson
S 5-10, 191
He could have gone almost anywhere in the Big 12, but stayed in the Dallas Metroplex area to play for TCU.

4 Malcolm Williams
S, 5-11, 205
He originally signed with Oklahoma out of high school and is a true star-in-the-making out of junior college.

5 Tanner Brock
LB, 6-3, 210
Steady and hard-hitting, Brock has an amazing nose for the football and was one of central Texas' best.

THE NEXT BIG THING

EVAN FROSCH, TE

Frosch had only 10 receptions last year as a sophomore, and two of those grabs went for touchdowns. At 6-4 and 260 pounds, he may become the perfect bailout option when TCU's receivers are tied up.

4 AIR FORCE FALCONS

Air Force started its 2008 campaign strong with three straight wins. The finish, however, was not what coach Troy Calhoun, his players or the fans were looking for as the Falcons dropped their final three games, including a 34-28 loss to Houston in the Armed Forces Bowl.

Still, things are positive in Colorado Springs as the Falcons try to move up in the Mountain West standings following last year's fourth-place finish.

Calhoun returns 13 starters (7 on defense), which will help Air Force remain competitive. Linebacker Ken Lamendola, the team's leading tackler (118) in 2008, hopes to spearhead a group that was nasty at times last season.

Cornerbacks Anthony Wright and Reggie Rembert and safety Chris Thomas combined for six interceptions in '08 and benefited from a great pass rush. Though end Jake Paulson, (who led the team last year with nine sacks) graduated, the secondary should still be a force.

On offense, the quarterback situation looked stable with the return of sophomore Tim Jefferson but that may not be the case anymore. Jefferson missed the majority of spring practice due to extra classes so he could make up for poor academics.

If he does suit up in the fall, the Falcons' offense should be potent as four starting linemen return. Also back is tailback Asher Clark.

Overall, Air Force averaged 26.8 points a game last season and allowed just 22.2 per contest. However, in those last three losses of 2008, the Falcons allowed 38.6 points per game. If Calhoun, with his 17-9 career mark and postseason success, wants to continue his progress with the Falcons, he'll find a way to finish the season strong.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Nicholls State	
S.12	@MINNESOTA	
S.19	@NEW MEXICO	23-10
S.26	San Diego State	35-10
GAME TO WATCH		
0.3	@NAVY	27-33

If the Falcons are serious about winning the Commander-in-Chief Trophy, this is the game they have to win.

0.10	TCU	10-44
0.17	Wyoming	23-3
0.24	@UTAH	23-30
0.31	@COLORADO STATE	38-17
N.7	Army	16-7
N.14	UNLV	29-28
N.21	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	24-38

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
Mountain West: 5-3
(lost to Houston in the Armed Forces Bowl, 34-28)

Coach: Troy Calhoun
3rd year (17-9)
Career record: 17-9
Offensive coordinator:
Clay Hendrix (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Tim DeRuyter (3rd year)

Stadium: Falcon Stadium (46,692)
Tickets: 800-666-USAF
Site: Colorado Springs, Colo.
Official athletic Web site:
www.goairforcefalcons.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	7	Tim Jefferson (6-0, 200, So.)
RB	17	Asher Clark (5-8, 185, So.)
FB	42	Jared Tew (6-0, 210, Jr.)
LOT	59	Ryan Gonzales (6-3, 255, Sr.)
LOG	57	Nick Charles (6-4, 285, Sr.)
C	65	Michael Hampton (6-2, 260, Sr.)
ROG	62	Peter Lusk (6-3, 270, Sr.)
ROT	60	Chris Campbell (6-3, 270, Sr.)
TE	81	Sean Quintana (6-2, 200, Sr.)
WR	83	Kevin Fogler (6-5, 205, Jr.)
WR	4	Kyle Halderman (5-11, 175, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	51	Myles Morales (6-3, 250, Sr)
NG	93	Ben Garland (6-5, 275, Sr.)
RDE	90	Rick Ricketts (6-3, 260, Jr.)
LOLB	36	Andre Morris, Jr. (6-3, 235, Jr.)
LILB	47	Ken Lamendola (6-2, 230, Jr.)
RILB	43	Justin Moore (5-11, 225, Sr.)
ROLB	44	Patrick Hennessey (6-2, 215, Jr.)
LCB	5	Anthony Wright (5-10, 190, So.)
RCB	8	Reggie Rembert (5-7, 175, Jr.)
FS	16	Jon Davis (6-1, 190, So.)
SS	34	Chris Thomas (5-11, 205, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	94	Zach Bell (6-2, 180, Jr.)
P	98	Brandon Geyer (6-4, 200, Sr.)

5 COLORADO STATE RAMS

The Rams had the biggest turnaround in the Mountain West Conference last year, going from 3-9 in 2007 to 7-6 in Steve Fairchild's first year as coach. The seven victories were the most by a first-year coach in school history.

Colorado State even found its way to a bowl game, beating Fresno State 40-35 in the New Mexico Bowl.

This season, the challenge for Fairchild is to build on his initial success in a league that is talented at the top. To do so, he is counting on veteran players to perform at a higher level and be more consistent in 2009.

Expect junior running back John Mosure to take the pressure off the quarterback. Serving as the backup to Gartrell Johnson (who exhausted his eligibility), Mosure averaged 4.1 yards per carry in 2008 and finished with 122 rushing yards and two touchdowns. He will team with junior fullback Zac Pauga, who had 19 receptions last season.

Whoever plays quarterback among Grant Stucker, Klay Kubiak and Jon Eastman will also have a reliable option at wide receiver.

Second-team All-Mountain West wideout Rashaun Greer had 63 catches for three touchdowns last year, and looks to improve upon those numbers this fall.

The Rams' offensive line will get a boost from the experience of seniors Cole Pemberton (left tackle), Tim Walter (center), Adrian Martinez (right guard) and Shelley Smith (left guard).

Defensively, Colorado State needs to work on lowering the number of points it surrenders in each contest. Last year, CSU's opponents averaged 30.2 points per game.

In hopes of bucking the trend, Fairchild will rely heavily on linebacker Mychal Sisson and Ricky Brewer.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	@COLORADO	17-38

This emotional rivalry returns to campus sites after being played nine times in the past 11 years in Denver. If the Rams can slow Colorado's offense, they'll be sitting well for the rest of their schedule.

S.12	Weber State	
S.19	Nevada	
S.26	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	42-45
0.3	@IDAHO	
0.10	Utah	16-49
0.17	@TCU	7-13
0.24	San Diego State	38-34
0.31	Air Force	17-38
N.7	@UNLV	41-28
N.21	@NEW MEXICO	20-6
N.27	Wyoming	31-20

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
Mountain West: 4-4
(beat Fresno State in the New Mexico Bowl, 40-35)

Coach: Steve Fairchild
2nd year (7-6)
Career record: 7-6
Offensive coordinator:
Greg Peterson (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Larry Kerr (2nd year)

Stadium: Sonny Lubick Field at Hughes Stadium (34,400)
Tickets: 800-491-RAMS
Site: Fort Collins
Official athletic Web site:
www.csurams.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	18	Grant Stucker (6-2, 207, Sr.)
FB	36	Zac Pauga (6-0, 242, Jr.)
RB	7	John Mosure (5-10, 202, Jr.)
LOT	53	Cole Pemberton (6-7, 316, Sr.)
LOG	74	Shelley Smith (6-4, 293, Sr.)
C	57	Tim Walter (6-6, 290, Sr.)
ROG	60	Adrian Martinez (6-4, 303, Sr.)
ROT	78	Mark Starr (6-5, 282, Jr.)
TE	45	Eric Peitz (6-5, 250, Jr.)
WR	84	Rashaun Greer (6-1, 203, Sr.)
WR	31	Dion Morton (5-10, 163, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	24	Cory Macon (6-6, 239, Jr.)
LDT	33	Sevaro Johnson (6-3, 297, Sr.)
RDT	46	Ty Whittier (6-5, 270, Jr.)
RDE	90	Sam Stewart (6-3, 250, Sr.)
SLB	56	Ricky Brewer (6-2, 207, Jr.)
MLB	51	Alex Williams (6-2, 220, Jr.)
WLB	6	Mychal Sisson (5-11, 201, So.)
LCB	11	Nick Oppenneer (5-10, 176, Sr.)
RCB	30	Gerard Thomas (5-9, 166, So.)
FS	22	Elijah-Blu Smith (5-11, 181, So.)
SS	20	Klint Kubiak (6-0, 202, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	14	Ben DeLine (6-0, 166, So.)
P	14	Ben DeLine (6-0, 166, So.)

UNLV REBELS 6

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Sacramento State	
S.12	Oregon State	
S.19	Hawaii	
S.26	@WYOMING	22-14
0.3	@NEVADA	27-49
0.10	Brigham Young	35-42
0.17	Utah	21-42
0.24	@NEW MEXICO	27-20
0.31	@TCU	14-44
N.7	Colorado State	28-41
N.14	@AIR FORCE	28-29

GAME TO WATCH

N.28 San Diego State 21-42

The Rebels have a late-season bye and this game, like last year, may be for bowl eligibility.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7
Mountain West: 2-6

Coach: Mike Sanford
5th year (11-36)
Career record: 11-36
Offensive coordinator:
Todd Berry (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Dennis Therrell (3rd year)

Stadium: Sam Boyd Stadium (36,800)
Tickets: 702-739-FANS
Site: Las Vegas
Official athletic Web site:
www.unlvrebels.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Omar Clayton (6-1, 200, Jr.)
RB	3	C.J. Cox (5-11, 195, So.)
LOT	75	Matt Murphy (6-4, 300, Jr.)
LOG	63	Sean Tesoro (6-2, 290, Fr.)
C	66	John Gianninoto (6-3, 290, Jr.)
ROG	59	Joe Hawley (6-3, 310, Sr.)
ROT	73	Evan Marchal (6-7, 300, Jr.)
TE	44	Kyle Watkins (6-2, 240, So.)
WR	88	Ryan Wolfe (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	18	Phillip Payne (6-3, 200, So.)
WR	84	Rodelin Anthony (6-5, 230, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	99	Isaako Aaitui (6-3, 300, Jr.)
LDT	68	Martin Tevaseu (6-2, 340, Sr.)
RDT	93	Malo Taumua (6-1, 270, Jr.)
RDE	53	Matt Kravetz (6-1, 245, So.)
SLB	14	Starr Fuimaono (5-11, 210, Sr.)
MLB	56	Ronnie Paulo (6-1, 240, Jr.)
WLB	33	Jason Beauchamp (6-3, 235, Sr.)
LCB	26	Deante' Purvis (5-10, 185, So.)
RCB	20	Kenny Brown (5-9, 160, So.)
FS	9	Travis Dixon (6-0, 190, Jr.)
SS	10	Quinton Pointer (5-9, 185, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	37	Kyle Watson (5-9, 215, Sr.)
P	13	Brendon Lamers (5-11, 190, Sr.)

For many programs, five wins is a bad season. But at UNLV, it was cause for celebration, as beleaguered coach Mike Sanford finally got over the two-win hump for the first time in four years.

This fall, the Rebels could take the next step by producing a winning record and earning a bowl invitation. The Rebels have the right parts to make it happen with quarterback Omar Clayton, who has recovered from a knee injury that ended his '08 season early. He is the kind of athlete Sanford needs to run his spread offense.

Clayton has three inviting targets in all-conference receiver Ryan Wolfe (88 receptions in '08), Phillip Payne (29) and Rodelin Anthony (17). The trio makes up arguably the best receiver corps in the league, and they will put a lot of pressure on opposing secondaries. The Rebels also have a solid offensive line, which is anchored by guard Joe Hawley and left tackle Matt Murphy.

Replacing running back Frank Summers is a concern but C.J. Cox, Imari Thompson, Channing Trotter and Chris Brogdon will all get a chance to win the job.

Defensively, UNLV's front seven will be competitive, as linebackers Jason Beauchamp and Starr Fuimaono and linemen Malo Taumua and Martin Tevaseu are effective run stoppers. Fuimaono missed all but two games last season with a knee injury and hopes to return to his 2007 form.

The secondary is an issue, but Sanford recruited eight defensive backs, including junior-college transfer Kenny Brown. And if Quinton Pointer recovers from the shoulder surgery that kept him out of spring drills, the Rebels will have at least one experienced hand in the defensive backfield.

NEW MEXICO LOBOS 7

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@TEXAS A&M	22-28
S.12	Tulsa	14-56
S.19	Air Force	10-23

GAME TO WATCH

S.26 New Mexico State 35-24

Not only does this matchup feature the Lobos' in-state rival, but they'll have two weeks to prepare for it thanks to a bye. It will give them a chance to work out any kinks from a tough first three games.

0.3	@TEXAS TECH	
0.10	@WYOMING	24-0
0.24	UNLV	20-27
0.31	@SAN DIEGO STATE	70-7
N.7	@UTAH	10-13
N.14	Brigham Young	3-21
N.21	Colorado State	6-20
N.28	@TCU	3-26

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
Mountain West: 2-6

Coach: Mike Locksley, 1st year

Offensive coordinator:

Darrell Dickey (1st year)

Defensive coordinator:

Doug Mallory (1st year)

Stadium: University Stadium (38,634)
Tickets: 505-925-5626
Site: Albuquerque
Official athletic Web site:
www.golobos.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Brad Gruner (6-2, 217, So)
RB	13	James Wright (5-11, 235, So.)
LOT	74	Byron Bell (6-5, 315, So.)
LOG	56	Mike Cannon (6-3, 295, Jr.)
C	69	Erik Cook (6-6, 315, Sr.)
ROG	66	Joshua Taufalele (6-2, 310, Sr.)
ROT	78	Ivan Hernandez (6-6, 295, Sr.)
TE	97	Lucas Reed (6-6, 215, r-Fr.)
WR	8	Roland Bruno (5-10, 166, Sr.)
WR	7	Bryant Williams (5-11, 190, Jr.)
WR	16	Chris Hernandez (6-3, 191, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	98	DeAndre Davis (6-2, 252, Sr.)
LDT	53	Kendall Briscoe (6-2, 285, Sr.)
RDT	93	Peter Gardner (6-4, 295, Jr.)
RDE	88	Johnathan Rainey (6-2, 225, So.)
LOLB	11	Clint McPeek (6-1, 227, Sr.)
MLB	58	Carmen Messina (6-2, 210, So.)
ROLB	55	Tray Hardaway (6-0, 215, Sr.)
LCB	38	Edrick Boger (5-11, 170, r-Fr.)
RCB	6	Anthony Hooks (5-11, 170, So.)
FS	96	Frankie Solomon (5-10, 180, sr.)
SS	30	Ian Clark (6-0, 210, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	12	James Aho (5-9, 175, So.)
P	14	Adam Miller (6-2, 235, Sr.)

After 11 years of Rocky Long as its coach, New Mexico has opted to go in a different direction.

The program underachieved last year and went 4-8 overall, 2-6 in the Mountain West and finished tied for sixth place.

Enter new coach Mike Locksley and the Lobos' slogan after his hire—"New Era, New Energy, New Mexico."

Locksley, who was the offensive coordinator at Illinois prior to his arrival in Albuquerque, will try to open things up and play a fast-tempo game.

To achieve that, he'll rely on quarterback Brad Gruner, running back James Wright and receivers Bryant Williams, Chris Hernandez and Roland Bruno. The receiving trio combined for 93 catches last year and should have more opportunities in Locksley's system.

Up front, three starting offensive linemen return, led by senior center Erik Cook. Guard Joshua Taufalele and tackle Byron Bell also anchor a line that should be able to hold its own against most opponents.

New Mexico's defense will have a new look in a 4-3 scheme. Only three starters return, so if ever there was a time to start fresh, this is it.

Locksley wants to get more athletic and attack more, so look for additional blitzing and gambling from the Lobos, who had just 21 sacks last season.

New Mexico should also be strong on special teams. Sophomore James Aho proved to be a reliable placekicker, making all 24 extra-point attempts and connecting on 18 of 24 field-goal tries a year ago. Senior Adam Miller averaged 39.8 yards a punt as a junior.

If the Lobos hope to land one of the Mountain West's five bowl bids in 2009, Locksley has a lot of work to do on both sides of the ball.

8 SAN DIEGO STATE AZTECS

When a team goes 2-10, there's only one direction to head. So first-year coach Brady Hoke's mandate is clear: The Aztecs must move forward, because it's hard to imagine 2009 being worse than 2008.

Luckily for Hoke, San Diego State showed progress late last year when the team came up with its best effort of the season and beat UNLV 42-21 to squash the Rebels' postseason eligibility. Though it wasn't enough to save Chuck Long's job, Hoke will make sure there are no more steps backward.

His first task was to get on the recruiting trail, and the signing class was all about skill-position players on offense and the back seven on defense. The Aztecs did not ink any linemen on either side of the ball with their 20 signees in February. So Hoke is prepared to go to war with what he inherited.

Also, he didn't sign a single junior-college player, a radical departure for the Aztecs. Hoke wants to build a solid foundation and he's going the freshman route to do so, which means there'll be a few lumps along the way. But the move should pay off down the road.

Until then, Hoke and offensive line coach Darrell Funk will put their faith in a line that allowed 21 sacks last year.

Of course, if the Aztecs can run the ball, perhaps quarterback Ryan Lindley won't be targeted as often. That means running back Atiyyah Henderson must improve on his 44.5 yards per game average from a year ago. The same goes for Brandon Sullivan, who averaged just 23.1 yards per game last season.

One positive on offense is receiver Vincent Brown (64 catches, 5 TDs).

The defense needs to get tougher, too. San Diego State was bullied by opponents in crunch time, getting outscored 146-43 in the fourth quarter last year.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@UCLA	

GAME TO WATCH

S.12 Southern Utah

After losing 29-27 to Cal Poly in last year's season opener, Brady Hoke and his Aztecs better not stumble against very beatable Southern Utah.

S.19	@IDAHO	45-17
S.26	@AIR FORCE	10-35
O.3	New Mexico State	
O.17	Brigham Young	12-41
O.24	@COLORADO STATE	34-38
O.31	New Mexico	7-70
N.7	TCU	7-41
N.14	Wyoming	10-35
N.21	@UTAH	14-63
N.28	@UNLV	42-21

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 2-10
Mountain West: 1-7

Coach: Brady Hoke, 1st year
Career record: 34-38
Offensive coordinator: Al Borges (1st year)
Defensive coordinator: Rocky Long (1st year)

Stadium: Qualcomm Stadium (54,000)
Tickets: 619-283-SDSU
Site: San Diego
Official athletic Web site: www.goaztecs.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	14	Ryan Lindley (6-3, 205, So.)
FB	20	Matt Kawulok (6-2, 245, Sr.)
RB	6	Atiyyah Henderson (5-9, 180, Sr.)
LOT	62	Peter Nelson (6-5, 285, Sr.)
LOG	53	Emilio Rivera (6-4, 330, So.)
C	50	Trask Iosefa (6-0, 315, Jr.)
ROG	67	Ikaika Aken-Moleta (6-2, 305, Sr.)
ROT	79	Kurtis Gunther (6-8, 280, So.)
TE	41	Tony DeMartinis (6-5, 260, Sr.)
WR	1	DeMarco Sampson (6-2, 210, Sr.)
WR	80	Vincent Brown (6-0, 185, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	94	Jerome Long (6-5, 250, So.)
NT	56	Jonathan Soto (6-3, 370, Sr.)
RDE	90	B.J. Williams (6-3, 250, Jr.)
SLB	40	Zach Shapiro (6-2, 250, Sr.)
MLB	35	Luke Laolagi (6-1, 230, Sr.)
WLB	22	Andrew Preston (6-1, 225, Jr.)
LCB	24	Kwincy Edwards (5-11, 265, Sr.)
RCB	2	Davion Mauldin (5-10, 175, Sr.)
S	4	Romeo Horn (6-0, 185, Jr.)
S	42	Nick Sandford (6-2, 210, Sr.)
S	5	Dey Juan Hemmings (5-11, 195, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	88	Lan Yoshida (5-10, 195, Sr.)
P	14	Brian Stahovich (6-0, 170, So.)

9 WYOMING COWBOYS

Former coach Joe Glenn had a great start during his tenure at Wyoming but couldn't sustain success. Now, it's Dave Christensen's turn to get the Cowboys back on track.

The former offensive coordinator at Missouri has a problem right off the bat.

Who will be his quarterback?

It could be the inconsistent veteran Karsten Sween or junior Dax Crum, who played in eight games last year. Or perhaps one of the two newcomers—junior-college transfer Robert Benjamin or incoming freshman Austyn Carta-Samuels—could win the job.

Whoever it is will need to navigate the intricacies of Christensen's version of the spread offense.

The offensive learning curve figures to be a long one, so if Wyoming hopes to compete, it will have to rely on its strength—the defense.

That unit, which returns eight starters, will boast two of the league's top linemen in second-team All-MWC tackle John Fletcher and senior end Mitch Unrein, an honorable-mention pick.

Safety Chris Prosinski (3 INTs) will lead the secondary and the Gipson brothers, Marcell and Tashaun, should lock down the cornerback spots. Weston Johnson (78 tackles) and Gabe Knapton (92) are back at linebacker.

Sophomore punter Austin McCoy was serviceable last year, averaging 37.9 yards a boot and placing 13 of his kicks inside the opponents' 20-yard line.

Christensen has the components to create excitement on the field, as Missouri was one of the nation's highest-scoring teams the past couple of years.

But until he can figure out his quarterback dilemma, don't expect any fireworks in Laramie.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Weber State	

GAME TO WATCH

S.12 Texas

It's rare when a football powerhouse comes to Laramie, but the Longhorns will show Wyoming how to play real football.

S.19	@COLORADO	
S.26	UNLV	14-22
O.3	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	
O.10	New Mexico	0-24
O.17	@AIR FORCE	3-23
O.31	@UTAH	7-40
N.7	Brigham Young	0-44
N.14	@SAN DIEGO STATE	35-10
N.21	TCU	7-54
N.27	@COLORADO STATE	20-31

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8
Mountain West: 1-7

Coach: Dave Christensen, 1st year
Offensive coordinator: Marcus Arroyo (1st year)
Defensive coordinator: Marty English (1st year)

Stadium: Jonah Field at War Memorial Stadium (32,580)
Tickets: 800-922-9461
Site: Laramie
Official athletic Web site: www.wyomingathletics.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	16	Karsten Sween (6-2, 229, Sr.)
RB	26	Darius Terry (5-11, 209, Jr.)
LOT	71	Ryan Otterson (6-5, 275, Sr.)
LOG	75	Sam Sterner (6-4, 302, Jr.)
C	70	Russ Arnold (6-4, 289, Sr.)
ROG	57	Jack Tennant (6-4, 305, Jr.)
ROT	72	Clayton Kirven (6-6, 310, So.)
TE	85	Jesson Salyards (6-5, 235, Sr.)
WR	84	Greg Bolling (6-2, 180, Sr.)
WR	22	Brandon Stewart (5-11, 193, So.)
WR	33	David Leonard (6-4, 197, Jr.)

DEFENSE

DE	98	Mitch Unrein (6-4, 270, Sr.)
DT	91	John Fletcher (6-6, 272, Sr.)
NG	90	Fred Givens (6-0, 305, Sr.)
DE	37	Matt Barella (6-2, 228, Sr.)
SLB	36	Weston Johnson (6-3, 233, Sr.)
MLB	52	Gabe Knapton (6-3, 238, So.)
WLB	8	Brian Hendricks (6-1, 223, So.)
LCB	4	Tashaun Gipson (6-0, 190, So.)
RCB	2	Marcell Gipson (5-10, 178, Jr.)
FS	24	Chris Prosinski (6-1, 208, Jr.)
SS	19	Jamichael Hall (6-2, 190, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	21	Jake Scott (5-8, 160, Sr.)
P	28	Austin McCoy (6-3, 195, So.)

ALL-MAC

OFFENSE

QB	Tim Hiller, Sr., Western Michigan
RB	MiQuale Lewis, Sr., Ball State
RB	James Starks, Jr., Buffalo
OL	Shane Steffy, Sr., Bowling Green
OL	Jason Onyebuagu, Sr., Northern Illinois
OL	Eddie Adamski, Sr., Northern Illinois
OL	Phillip Swanson, Sr., Western Michigan
OL	Eric Davis, Jr., Eastern Michigan
TE	Jimmy Scheidler, Sr., Bowling Green
WR	Naaman Roosevelt, Sr., Buffalo
WR	Antonio Brown, Jr., Central Michigan

DEFENSE

DL	Andre Neblett, Sr., Temple
DL	Brandon Crawford, Sr., Ball State
DL	Almondo Sewell, Jr., Akron
DL	Frank Zombo, Sr., Central Michigan
LB	Austin Pritchard, Sr., Western Michigan
LB	Nick Bellore, Jr., Central Michigan
LB	Noah Keller, Jr., Ohio
DB	Brian Lainhart, Jr., Kent State
DB	Davonte Shannon, Jr., Buffalo
DB	Barry Church, Sr., Toledo
DB	Steven Jackson, Sr., Ohio

SPECIALISTS

K	Mike Salerno, Sr., Northern Illinois
P	Zach Johnson, Sr., Eastern Michigan

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 The MAC will produce a new top-flight quarterback this season. While the best of the group are Western Michigan's Tim Hiller, Central Michigan's Dan LeFevour and Bowling Green's Tyler Sheehan, the league's MVP could be someone who begins this fall off the radar.

2 Temple will get a bowl bid this season, in turn making heads spin in the Big East, which booted the Owls from the league just five years ago.

3 One of the league's highly regarded young coaches will move on to a BCS program. Will it be Central Michigan's Butch Jones, Buffalo's Turner Gill or perhaps Al Golden of Temple?

4 Seven MAC schools play their first games of the season against a BCS school. Touted as the underdogs, look for three of them to upset a big-time program.

Coaching staffs finding MAC to be a giant revolving door

By John Wagner, *correspondent*

Having to replace players is a fact of life in college football. Coaches come and go, too.

But the number of coaching losses around the Mid-American Conference turned some heads, as five of the league's members replaced coaches in the offseason.

Still, some changes were expected. For example, Eastern Michigan replaced Jeff Genyk after the Eagles posted a 3-9 record, the school's fifth losing season under Genyk.

The situations were similar at Toledo and Miami, two programs with a recent history of success caught in a downturn that wasn't acceptable.

However, Bowling Green was a surprise. Gregg Brandon was let go despite a 6-6 finish, including an upset victory at Pittsburgh. But that win occurred in the season opener, which led to sky-high expectations that were never realized.

Ball State also left people scratching their heads. Granted, it was no shock that Brady Hoke left his alma mater after lifting the Cardinals to 12th in the national polls last year. But Hoke made a lateral career move by going to San Diego State, a program that hasn't had a winning season since 1998.

The biggest surprise in the MAC, however, wasn't a coaching change, but the lack of one. Buffalo's Turner Gill was passed over by BCS schools despite guiding the Bulls—one of the most downtrodden programs in college football history—to victory in the MAC Championship Game and earning the school's first-ever bowl bid in the process.

All these changes signal two things.

One: The moves made by Bowling Green, Toledo and Miami indicate that "good" won't cut it anymore and "bad" is unacceptable.

And two: Did BCS schools pass on Gill because he wasn't the best candidate, or because lifting Buffalo's program to the top of the MAC isn't that impressive?

If it's the latter, then that's bad news for a league struggling for respect among the big-time conferences.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Jeremy Crabtree, *Rivals.com*

1. KENT STATE The Golden Flashes signed one four-star prospect and five three-star newcomers.
2. AKRON The Zips have always recruited well and know how to find talent.
3. OHIO Frank Solich and his staff did a nice job recruiting locally.
4. TOLEDO The Rockets landed one four-star player and one three-star recruit.
5. MIAMI UNIVERSITY The new staff transformed a subpar class into one of the league's best.
6. WESTERN MICHIGAN The Broncos always do a great job finding speed and skill in Florida.
7. NORTHERN ILLINOIS To win, the Huskies must keep some of the top Illinois players away from the lower-level Big Ten and rival MAC programs, and they took a step forward with that this year.
8. CENTRAL MICHIGAN The Chippewas do a tremendous job of finding local players who play their style of ball and are winners.
9. EASTERN MICHIGAN The Eagles could be a regional recruiting force to deal with in the future.
10. BALL STATE The coaching change lost Ball State its mojo late in the recruiting process.
11. BOWLING GREEN The Falcons have too much tradition to remain at the bottom for long.
12. BUFFALO Turner Gill wasn't able to capitalize on a great 2008 season.
13. TEMPLE Even though Temple finished at the bottom, this class was another step forward for the Owls.

ASCENDING

BUFFALO The rise of the Bulls from one of the worst programs in Division I history to a bowl participant last season was astounding. The team has a good chance to repeat that success this year.

DESCENDING

MIAMI (OH) Miami had a 2-10 record last year, the second time in three seasons the RedHawks have put up a losing mark. The last time before that the program had a record under .500? Try 1993.

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

MID-AMERICAN

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

EAST

1. Buffalo
2. Bowling Green
3. Temple
4. Ohio
5. Miami (Ohio)
6. Akron
7. Kent State

WEST

1. Western Michigan
2. Central Michigan
3. Northern Illinois
4. Ball State
5. Toledo
6. Eastern Michigan

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
Stephen Williams, Toledo

Best Hands
Antonio Brown, WR, Central Michigan

Best Passing QB
Tim Hiller, Western Michigan

Best Running QB
Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan

Most Elusive RB
James Starks, Buffalo

Best Instincts
Barry Church, S, Toledo

Best Athlete
Naaman Roosevelt, WR, Buffalo

Best Under Pressure
Mike Salerno, K, Northern Illinois

Top NFL Prospect
Antonio Brown, WR, Central Michigan

Top Impact Freshman
Darius Willis, QB, Buffalo

Hardest Hitter
Nick Bellore, LB, Central Michigan

Biggest Underachiever
Aaron Opelt, QB, Toledo

Best Home-Field Advantage
Northern Illinois

Best Fans
Central Michigan

Best Mascot
Charlie Cardinal, Ball State

Best Stadium
Glass Bowl, Toledo

MAC EAST PRESEASON RANK

1 BUFFALO BULLS

Turner Gill's rebuilding job at Buffalo is almost complete. So far, Gill's work has been impressive, as he's created a MAC champion out of a program that for years had been a league doormat. How bad were things for the Bulls? Last year's eight-win campaign gave Buffalo 16 victories in the past four seasons.

To win the MAC last year, the Bulls first claimed the East Division title and then knocked off an undefeated Ball State team that was ranked 12th nationally. The title propelled Buffalo to the school's first-ever bowl (International), with the Bulls falling to Connecticut 38-20 in Toronto.

What's left to accomplish? Well, perhaps the most difficult step—maintaining success.

The Bulls also have to quiet some doubters who realized the team's run to a championship wasn't smooth. It took a Hail Mary pass on the game's final play to beat Temple, and three of the league victories were in extra time, including a four-overtime win at Akron and a comeback victory at Bowling Green (2 OTs).

Six starters are back on offense, including first-team All-MAC honorees in tailback James Starks and receiver Naaman Roosevelt. Starks finished third in the MAC with 1,333 yards and 16 touchdowns last year despite missing three games with injuries. Roosevelt caught 104 passes for a league-best 1,402 yards and 13 scores.

Joining Roosevelt at wideout is Brett Hamlin (38 catches, 459 yards, 5 TDs), and tight end Jesse Rack also returns.

One question the offense must answer is who will replace Drew Willy at quarterback. Among the options are sophomore Zach Maynard and redshirt freshman Jerry Davis.

Buffalo must also make adjustments to the offensive line, where the Bulls lost three starters, including All-MAC guard Jeff Niedermier. The two linemen left are guard Peter Bittner and tackle Andrew West. Jordan Jerrold, who missed '08 with a knee injury, is expected to push for the open tackle spot.

The defense returns nine starters from a group that created a conference-high 34 turnovers last year. However, that unit also surrendered 408.2 yards per game, 10th in the MAC.

Buffalo is deep at safety, where All-MAC performers Davonte Shannon and Mike Newton return.

There also is depth at cornerback, as senior Kendric Hawkins and juniors Domonic Cook and Josh Thomas are all back. Another junior, Sherrod Lott, served as the team's nickel corner last season and finished seventh on the team in tackles.

While the Bulls are young at linebacker, they return three regulars in Raphael Akobundu (71 tackles), Justin Winters and Scott Pettigrew. Winters finished with a team-best 125 tackles in 2008 and was voted third-team All-MAC.

With only one returning starter, Anel Montanez, the defensive line is near bottom.

Junior kicker A.J. Principe (12 field goals) and sophomore punter Peter Fardon, a 27-year-old native of Australia who averaged 39.1 yards per punt, will strengthen the special-teams unit.

THE NEXT BIG THING

DARIUS WILLIS, LB

As soon as this freshman (who was a highly regarded quarterback in high school) gets comfortable playing defense, he'll be on the field. And it shouldn't take long for him to learn his way around.

JAMES STARKS » RB

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-6 **MAC:** 5-3
(lost to Connecticut in the International Bowl, 38-20)

Coach: Turner Gill, 4th year (15-23)
Career record: 15-23
Offensive coordinator:
Danny Barrett (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Fred Reed (2nd year)

Stadium: University of Buffalo Stadium (29,013)
Tickets: 716-645-6666
Site: Buffalo, N.Y.
Official athletic Web site:
www.buffalobulls.com

5-YEAR WINS TREND

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@UTEP	42-17
S.12	Pittsburgh	16-27
S.19	@UCF	
S.26	@TEMPLE	30-28
0.3	Central Michigan	25-27
0.10	Gardner-Webb	
0.17	Akron	43-40 (OT)
0.24	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	28-34 (OT)
N.3	Bowling Green	40-34 (OT)
N.10	Ohio	32-19
N.18	@MIAMI (OH)	37-17
N.27	@KENT STATE	21-24

GAME TO WATCH

The Bulls want to avenge last year's heartbreaker against the Chippewas. Buffalo cut the deficit to two and then recovered the onside kick, only to have a field goal bounce off the upright as time expired.

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL
» INTERNATIONAL BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:
» Program is shedding the bottom-feeder label, as Starks and Roosevelt are strengthening the skill positions.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	6	Zach Maynard (6-3, 185, So.)
TB	19	James Starks (6-2, 211, Sr.)
FB	27	Brandon Thermilus (5-11, 224, Jr.)
LOT	72	Andrew West (6-6, 314, Sr.)
LOG	73	Peter Bittner (6-4, 301, Jr.)
C	69	Josh Voilanti (6-2, 264, So.)
ROG	76	Matt Bacoulis (6-3, 316, Sr.)
ROT	77	Jordan Jerrold (6-8, 307, Jr.)
TE	82	Jesse Rack (6-3, 236, Sr.)
WR	18	Naaman Roosevelt (6-0, 187, Sr.)
WR	88	Brett Hamlin (6-1, 190, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	53	Jerry Housey (6-0, 24, Jr.)
LDT	74	Anel Montanez (5-11, 290, Jr.)
RDT	92	Dane Robinson (6-2, 267, Sr.)
RDE	52	Tom Drewes (6-1, 249, So.)
LB	33	Scott Pettigrew (6-2, 210, So.)
LB	34	Justin Winters (5-11, 202, Jr.)
LCB	12	Kendric Hawkins (5-10, 184, Sr.)
RCB	25	Domonic Cook (5-8, 187, Jr.)
NCB	14	Josh Thomas (5-10, 180, Jr.)
S	20	Mike Newton (5-11, 200, Jr.)
S	7	Davonte Shannon (6-0, 193, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	13	A.J. Principe (5-8, 154, Jr.)
P	56	Peter Fardon (6-1, 180, So.)

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 **Matt Jones** *DE, 6-1, 220*
Jones is undersized but has an unstoppable motor and is a leader. Coming off a year in prep school, he'll make a quick impact.

2 **Branden Oliver** *RB, 5-7, 185*
Oliver may be one of the biggest steals in the country. Though he lacks ideal height, Oliver has great speed and a sturdy frame.

3 **Fred Lee** *WR, 6-1, 185*
Lee is an athletic receiver who had a big senior year with 70 catches for 1,010 yards and 14 touchdowns.

4 **Carlos Lammons** *CB, 5-10, 180*
Lammons has good speed and comes from one of the most proven programs in Florida, Pahokee High.

5 **Peter Gagliardi** *TE, 6-2, 219*
Gagliardi is a tight end with soft hands and will be a terrific receiving threat against MAC opponents.

CHARLES LECLAIRE / GETTY IMAGES

2 BOWLING GREEN FALCONS

The good news for Bowling Green is 12 starters return from last season when the Falcons tied for second in the MAC East.

The bad news is those returnees will need to produce more in 2009 for Bowling Green to break through to the top spot in the division.

For example, senior quarterback Tyler Sheehan has plenty of experience and was third-team All-MAC as a sophomore, but he needs to increase last year's 20 touchdowns and decrease the nine interceptions.

There's also talent at tailback with Chris Bullock, Willie Geter and Jason Rice all returning. But none of them gained more than 400 yards last season, and one will need to show he can be counted on full time.

Receiver Freddie Barnes will give Sheehan a top-flight target after catching 40 passes for 355 yards in an injury-plagued season.

However, the Falcons' defense suffered significant losses, particularly on the line. Three starters were lost to graduation and the lone returnee, Mike Ream, was dismissed for violating team rules.

The linebacking corps was also hit hard, with senior Jerett Sanderson the only starter back. Sanderson is adept in pass coverage, as the former safety had a pair of interceptions and broke up eight passes last season.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.3	Troy

GAME TO WATCH
S.12 @MISSOURI
The Falcons toppled then-No. 25 Pitt last year. A win over a tough Tigers squad would put the '09 campaign on the right track.

S.19	@MARSHALL
S.26	Boise State
0.3	Ohio
0.10	@KENT STATE
0.17	@BALL STATE
0.24	Central Michigan
N.3	@BUFFALO
N.12	@MIAMI (OH)
N.20	Akron
N.27	Toledo

LOWER TIER BOWL

BOWL PROJECTION
» GMAC BOWL

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 6-6 **MAC:** 4-4

Coach: Dave Clawson, 1st year
Offensive coord.: Warren Ruggiero (1st year)
Defensive coords.: Shannon Morrison (1st year), Mike Elko (1st year)

Stadium: Doyt L. Perry Stadium (23,529)
Tickets: 419-372-0000 **Site:** Bowling Green, Ohio
Official athletic Web site: www.bgsufalcons.com

3 TEMPLE OWLS

The Owls collected five victories in 2008, the program's highest total in 18 seasons. To keep its momentum, Temple must find replacements for center Alex Derenthal, a second-team All-MAC performer last year, and quarterback Adam DiMichele.

Candidates to fill DiMichele's spot include junior Vaughn Charlton, who saw action in seven games in 2007 but redshirted last season, and sophomore Chester Stewart, who made three starts last year.

Sophomore Wayne Tribue will move from left guard to center to replace Derenthal and anchor a young but experienced line. Senior Devin Tyler, junior Marcus Brown and sophomores Pat Boyle and John Palumbo all have starting experience.

The top returnees at tailback include senior Lamar McPherson and sophomore Ahkeem Smith. Jason Harper (33 catches, 571 yards) and Dy'Onne Crudup (15, 214) will lead the receiving corps.

Because of the uncertainty of the offense, Temple will rely on a defense that returns nine starters and a number of other players with experience.

The defensive line's strength will come from second-team All-MAC nose tackle Andre Neblett. Fellow senior Brian Sanford is back at end, while junior Elisha Joseph and sophomore Adrian Robinson saw extensive action last fall.

Senior two-year starter Alex Joseph heads the linebacking unit in the middle after making 87 tackles last fall.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.3	Villanova
S.19	@PENN STATE

GAME TO WATCH
S.26 Buffalo
If the Owls want to continue their rise in the MAC, they need to win this home contest against the defending champs in their league opener.

0.3	@EASTERN MICHIGAN
0.10	Ball State
0.17	Army
0.24	@TOLEDO
0.31	@NAVY
N.5	Miami
N.13	@AKRON
N.21	Kent State
N.27	@OHIO

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7 **MAC:** 4-4

Coach: Al Golden, 4th year (10-26)
Career record: 10-26
Offensive coord.: Matt Rhule (2nd year)
Defensive coord.: Mark D'Onofrio (3rd year)

Stadium: Lincoln Financial Field (68,532)
Tickets: 215-204-8499 **Site:** Philadelphia
Official athletic Web site: www.owlsports.com

4 OHIO BOBCATS

Ohio ended last season on a positive note, winning its final two games following a 2-8 start.

With a number of experienced players back, expectations will be higher for the Bobcats in 2009. The challenge for coach Frank Solich is choosing the right starters.

On offense, few teams have the quarterback experience of the Bobcats. The options include seniors Theo Scott—he started in 2007 but missed most of last season with a broken collarbone—and Boo Jackson, who stepped in for Scott and threw for 2,355 yards and 19 touchdowns while rushing for 333 yards.

There are also choices at tailback in senior Chris Garrett (529 rushing yards, 5 TDs) and sophomore Donte Harden (454 yards in seven injury-plagued games).

Whoever wins the quarterback job will be looking for senior receiver Taylor Price, who caught a team-high 51 balls for 694 yards and five scores in 2008.

Ohio needs to cut down on turnovers, as the Bobcats made a league-worst 32 last year.

However, the defense does return a star-studded linebacker corps. Junior Noah Keller earned All-MAC honors after leading the team with 104 tackles a year ago, while Lee Renfro is back after finishing second to Keller with 83 stops.

Senior Steven Jackson (71 tackles) is the most dependable player returning in the secondary.

The line will look for seniors Kris Luchsinger and Conor Reilly and junior Curtis Meyers to step up.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT

GAME TO WATCH
A.30 Connecticut
Ohio must start better than last season's 0-4 mark. The Bobcats will try to get off on the right foot against one of the Big East's better teams.

S.12	@NORTH TEXAS
S.19	Cal Poly
S.26	@TENNESSEE
0.3	@BOWLING GREEN
0.10	@AKRON
0.17	Miami (OH)
0.24	Kent State
0.31	@BALL STATE
N.10	@BUFFALO
N.21	Northern Illinois
N.27	Temple

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8 **MAC:** 3-5

Coach: Frank Solich, 5th year (23-26)
Career record: 81-45
Offensive coord.: Tim Albin (5th year)
Defensive coord.: Jimmy Burrow (5th year)

Stadium: Peden Stadium (24,000)
Tickets: 800-575-CATS **Site:** Athens
Official athletic Web site: www.ohiobobcats.com

5 MIAMI REDHAWKS

Spring practice for Miami could have been substituted for a meet-and-greet, with all of the new faces in Oxford this year.

After four years as the offensive coordinator at Notre Dame, Mike Haywood will lead a RedHawks squad that has totaled just 10 wins in the last three seasons.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.5	Kentucky*
S.12	@BOISE STATE
S.19	@WESTERN MICHIGAN
S.26	@KENT STATE
0.3	Cincinnati
0.10	@NORTHWESTERN
0.17	@OHIO
0.24	Northern Illinois
0.31	Toledo
N.5	@TEMPLE
N.12	BOWLING GREEN
N.18	BUFFALO

GAME TO WATCH

S.5 Kentucky*

A win against the Wildcats at Paul Brown Stadium in Cincinnati will do wonders for new coach Mike Haywood.

** At Cincinnati, OH*

Nearly 60 percent of the roster consists of freshmen and sophomores. In fact, the veterans of the program are the assistant coaches, who have more than 200 years of experience combined.

Eight starters return on offense, led by quarterback Daniel Raudabaugh (1,960 yards, 8 TDs, 9 INTs). Should he falter, Clay Belton and Zac Dysert will be ready to step in.

Many of Raudabaugh's top targets also return, including Jamal Rogers (42 catches, 359 yards), Chris Givens (35 catches, 513 yards, 7 TDs) and Dustin Woods (35 catches, 377 yards).

The running game will be solid with Thomas Merriweather (547 rushing yards) and J.R. Taylor (427). However, they'll run behind a young line, as right guard Bob Gulley is the only returnee with experience.

Only five defensive starters are back, with significant holes at linebacker after the departure of all-league performers Clayton Mullins and Joe Hudson. Caleb Bostic, a three-time letterman with 40 stops last year, will be counted on for leadership.

The defensive line will go without All-MAC end Joe Coniglio (4 sacks), but Morris Council (2.5) returns.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 2-10 **MAC:** 1-7

Coach: Mike Haywood, 1st year
Offensive coord.: Peter Vaas (1st year)
Defensive coord.: Carl Reese (1st year)

Stadium: Yager Stadium (24,286)
Tickets: 866-MUHAWKS
Site: Oxford, Ohio
Official athletic Web site: www.muredhawks.com

6 AKRON ZIPS

Akron faces a potential watershed season this fall.

With the debut of InfoCision Stadium, the Zips need to prove the funding for the new digs was well spent. That means the Zips have some pressure to surpass 2008's 5-7 record.

The Zips need a strong season from quarterback Chris Jacquemain (2,748 yards, 20 TDs, 14 INTs), and his top targets from last year are back in Deryn Bowser (64 catches, 785 yards) and Andre Jones (47, 678).

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.5	@PENN STATE
S.12	Morgan State
S.19	Indiana
S.26	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN
0.10	Ohio
0.17	@BUFFALO
0.24	@SYRACUSE
0.31	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS
N.7	Kent State
N.13	Temple
N.20	@BOWLING GREEN
N.27	Eastern Michigan

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 Indiana

This will be the second game at the Zips' new InfoCision Stadium, and the Hoosiers will be the first Big Ten team to visit Akron.

Akron lost an important component in the ground game in all-league back Dennis Kennedy (1,321 yards, 17 TDs). The best bets to replace him are Alex Allen and Dale Martin.

Another ingredient to the team's success on the ground was All-MAC lineman Chris Kemme, also lost to graduation.

But the rest of the line returns with Elliott Bates, Zack Anderson, Mike Ward and Corey Woods.

Five defensive starters are gone, but there are weapons available in two-time all-league pick Almondo Sewell (62 tackles), Shawn Lemon and Dan Marcoux.

Linebackers Kevin Grant and Doug Williams, who combined for 154 stops in '08, will be tough to replace, but Mike Thomas (81 tackles, 8.5 for loss) will try.

The Zips are deep in the defensive backfield thanks to the return of Wayne Cobham, Miguel Graham, Tyler Campbell and Jalil Carter.

Igor Iveljic will handle the kicking chores, while John Stec is back at punter.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7 **MAC:** 3-5

Coach: J.D. Brookhart, 6th year (27-33)
Career record: 27-33
Offensive coord.: Shane Montgomery (1st year)
Defensive coord.: Jim Fleming (6th year)

Stadium: InfoCision Stadium (30,000)
Tickets: 888-99-AKRON
Site: Akron, Ohio
Official athletic Web site: www.gozips.com

7 KENT STATE GOLDEN FLASHES

The Golden Flashes return 15 starters in an attempt to claim the school's first winning record since 2001. But the Flashes must replace some key losses if they hope to achieve their goal.

Among those gone are quarterback Julian Edelman (school-record 3,190 total yards in '08), receiver Shawn Bayes (39 catches, 642 yards) and left tackle Augustus Parrish, an All-MAC lineman.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.3	Coastal Carolina
S.12	@BOSTON COLLEGE
S.19	Iowa State
S.26	Miami (Ohio)
0.3	@BAYLOR
0.10	Bowling Green
0.17	@EASTERN MICHIGAN
0.24	@OHIO
0.31	Western Michigan
N.7	@AKRON
N.21	@TEMPLE
N.27	Buffalo

GAME TO WATCH

S.26 Miami (Ohio)

It's imperative the Golden Flashes get off to a good start in the MAC, and a win in the league opener against Miami would fit the bill.

Giorgio Morgan and Anthony Magazu both have experience at quarterback, while Sal Battles is also in the mix. At receiver, Phil Garner and Jameson Konz (who will move from tight end) need to match Bayes' 2008 production.

Things aren't as dire on the offensive line, where Parrish is the only loss. Mike Roder, Pat Reedy, Michael Fay and Chris Anzevino played key roles for a running unit that led the MAC with 230.6 yards per game last year.

But the ground-game star is tailback Eugene Jarvis. Last season, the All-MAC senior ran for 801 yards despite missing four games with an ankle injury.

On defense, Kent State loses linebackers Derek Burrell, a two-time all-league pick, and Cedrick Maxwell, meaning two new faces will join Cobrani Mixon. Among the returnees on the defensive line are Sam Frist and Aaron Hull.

The secondary will be strong thanks to the return of All-MAC safety Brian Lainhart. Last season, Lainhart led the MAC with six interceptions and had 106 tackles. Safety Dan Hartman and cornerback Danny Sadler also return.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8 **MAC:** 3-5

Coach: Doug Martin, 6th year (19-39)
Career record: 19-39
Offensive coord.: A.J. Pratt (2nd year)
Defensive coord.: Pete Rekstis (6th year)

Stadium: Dix Stadium (29,287)
Tickets: 330-672-2244
Site: Kent, Ohio
Official athletic Web site: www.kentstatesports.com

MAC WEST PRESEASON RANK

WESTERN MICHIGAN BRONCOS

1

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
GAME TO WATCH		
S.5	**@MICHIGAN**	
Western Michigan has all five Football Bowl Subdivision schools from the state of Michigan on its schedule. Out of that group, a win at Ann Arbor against Big Blue would be tops for the Broncos.		
S.12	@INDIANA	
S.19	Miami (OH)	
S.26	HOFSTRA	
0.3	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	29-26
0.10	@TOLEDO	27-17
0.17	Central Michigan	28-38
0.24	Buffalo	34-28 (OT)
0.31	@KENT STATE	
N.7	@MICHIGAN STATE	
N.14	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	31-10
N.24	Ball State	22-45

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» MOTOR CITY BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» A solid QB and one of the best passing teams in the country, but the secondary needs to grow.

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	18	Tim Hiller (6-5, 228, Sr.)
RB	2	Brandon West (5-10, 188, Sr.)
LOT	72	Anthony Parker (6-5, 305, So.)
LOG	65	Phillip Swanson (6-4, 307, Jr.)
C	63	Paul Wasikowski (6-3, 291, Sr.)
ROG	61	Nick Clemens (6-5, 307, Jr.)
ROT	79	Jonathan Jack (6-6, 340, So.)
TE	84	Matt Stevens (6-4, 243, Sr.)
WR	81	Juan Nunez (6-0, 172, Jr.)
WR	12	Robert Arnheim (6-2, 180, So.)
WR	89	Seth Patterson (6-3, 185, Fr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	48	Justin Braska (6-4, 234, Sr.)
LDT	68	Cody Cielenski (6-2, 280, Sr.)
RDT	92	Drew Nowak (6-4, 250, So.)
RDE	96	Weston Peiffer (6-4, 245, So.)
SLB	35	Austin Pritchard (6-4, 233, Sr.)
MLB	47	Mitch Zajac (6-1, 220, So.)
WLB	51	Harrison Porter (6-0, 220, Jr.)
LCB	19	Josh Price (6-0, 195, So.)
RCB	25	David Lewis (5-10, 170, So.)
FS	1	Doug Wiggins (6-0, 180, Jr.)
SS	33	Mario Armstrong (6-0, 188, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

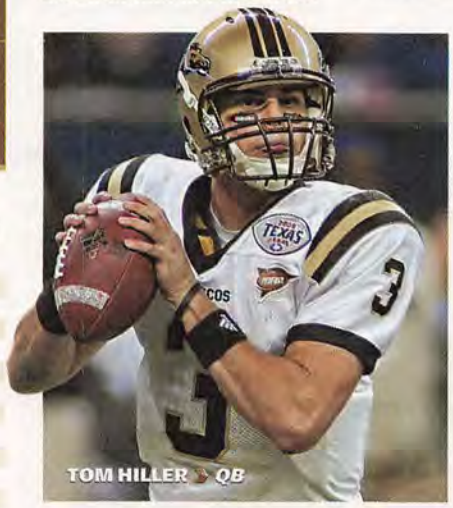
K	17	John Potter (6-2, 195, So.)
P	37	Ben Armer (5-10, 201, So.)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 9-4
MAC: 6-2
(lost to Rice in the Texas Bowl, 38-14)

Coach: Bill Cubit
5th year (29-20)
Career record: 29-20
Offensive coordinator:
Bill Cubit (5th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Steve Morrison (5th year)

Stadium: Waldo Stadium (30,200)
Tickets: 269-387-8092
Site: Kalamazoo
Official athletic Web site:
www.wmubroncos.com



TOM HILLER » QB

AL KOOISTRA

5-YEAR WINS TREND

RATING THE RECRUITS

1
Ansel Ponder
WR, 6-3, 195
Ponder was one of the top prep school offensive targets available in the 2009 class. He'll grow into a starter in no time.

2
Chleb Ravenell
WR, 6-2, 190
This junior-college transfer is expected to have a big impact immediately for QB Tim Hiller and the Broncos.

3
T.J. Lynch
DE, 6-4, 248
Another junior-college player who should push for early playing time under defensive coordinator Steve Morrison.

4
Dallas Walker
TE, 6-5, 225
Walker is not only a physical blocker, but he also has good hands and the size to dominate big-time defenses.

5
Tyler Van Tubbergen
QB, 6-4, 195
A talented Tubbergen is a steal for the Broncos and a likely replacement for Tim Hiller next year.

For the last few seasons, one of the MAC's best programs has flown under the radar.

Western Michigan has won 29 games over the past four years under coach Bill Cubit, including nine in 2008 to tie the school's single-season record. The Broncos finished second in the MAC West with a 6-2 mark, good enough to earn the program's second bowl bid in three seasons.

So is this the year Western Michigan wins its first West title since 2000, and the school's first MAC crown since 1988?

The pieces are in place for the Broncos to make that run. It begins at quarterback, where senior Tim Hiller hopes to build on last year's impressive performance, as the Broncos finished 11th nationally in passing offense. Hiller completed 64.9 percent of his throws for a conference-leading 3,725 yards and 36 touchdowns, earning third-team All-MAC honors.

A veteran line led by junior All-MAC performer Phillip Swanson, as well as returning starters Nick Clemens and Anthony Parker, will protect Hiller. Senior Paul Wasikowski and junior Nick Mitchell are back after splitting time at center last year, while sophomore Jonathan Jack is expected to earn the starting nod at right tackle.

Running behind that experienced line will be senior Brandon West, who rushed for 1,026 yards in 2008 and earned all-league honors. Sophomore Aaron Winchester (272 yards) is also back.

The Broncos will need an even better performance from junior Juan Nunez, a third-team All-MAC performer last season who hauled in 57 passes for 701 yards and seven scores.

Sophomore Robert Arnheim and freshman Seth Patterson are the early favorites to claim the other two vacated receiver slots.

Another option in the passing game is tight end Matt Stevens, a senior who steps in at a position recently manned by top-flight performers, including Tony Scheffler (Denver Broncos).

The offense will need to be productive from the beginning of the season to aid a defense that returns just four starters from last year. Two of those are on the line, as seniors Justin Braska and Cody Cielenski lead a young unit. Among the highly regarded members of this group are sophomores Drew Nowak and Weston Peiffer.

The linebacking crew is paced by Austin Pritchard, an All-MAC first-team honoree last year who finished second on the team with 86 tackles, including 12.5 for loss.

The Broncos' front seven will need to step up early to help a young secondary develop. All four starters from last season are gone, including All-MAC performers Louis Delmas, Londen Fryar and E.J. Biggers.

Miami (Fla.) transfer Doug Wiggins should step right in at free safety, while David Lewis and Josh Price will vie for spots at cornerback.

Returning kicker John Potter connected on 11 of 16 field goals, while punter Ben Armer averaged 40.6 yards per punt last season.

THE NEXT BIG THING

ROBERT ARNHEIM, WR

Arnheim played QB before moving to receiver because of injuries last fall. Now the sophomore is among the team's top wideouts after catching six passes for 115 yards in the spring game.

2 CENTRAL MICHIGAN CHIPPEWAS

The Chippewas stand on the threshold of Mid-American Conference history.

Central Michigan has played in the Motor City Bowl each of the past three seasons and looks to become the first active league member to claim four consecutive bowl bids.

There are enough weapons available to make that a reality, starting with senior quarterback Dan LeFevour, who threw for 2,784 yards and 21 touchdowns last year to earn all-league honors for the third straight season.

LeFevour has some big targets in first-team All-MAC receivers Antonio Brown (93 catches, 998 yards, 7 TDs) and Bryan Anderson. Brown is also an electrifying special-teams player, as he averaged 20.5 yards per punt return (tops in the nation) and 20.8 yards per kickoff return in 2008.

But there are questions about the ground game due to the loss of top tailback Ontario Sneed and All-MAC tackles Andrew Hartline and Greg Wojt. The line will have some patchwork to do, as sophomore tackle Rocky Weaver moves over from tight end.

The Chippewas' defense returns nearly intact from last season. Among the top players back are senior Frank Zombo and junior Sean Murnane, a pair of All-MAC defensive linemen who combined for 108 tackles and 11 sacks in 2008.

All three linebackers return, including All-MAC junior Nick Bellore, who collected a team-high 148 tackles last year.

The secondary comes in with hoards of experience, as five starters are back from last season. Seniors Kirkston Edwards, Josh Gordy and Tommy Mama each started at cornerback at different times in 2008.

Senior Andrew Aguila gives the Chippewas a weapon in the kicking game after earning all-league honors last season.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@ARIZONA	
S.12	@MICHIGAN STATE	
S.19	Alcorn State	
S.26	Akron	

GAME TO WATCH

0.3 @BUFFALO 27-25

The Chippewas defeated the Bulls last year and now own a 4-1 edge in the budding rivalry's short history. If Central Michigan is to make a run in the MAC, road victories like this are key.

0.10	Eastern Michigan	52-56
0.17	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	38-28
0.24	@BOWLING GREEN	
0.31	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
N.11	Toledo	24-23
N.18	@BALL STATE	24-31
N.27	Northern Illinois	33-30 (OT)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
MAC: 6-2
(lost to Florida Atlantic in the Motor City Bowl, 24-21)

Coach: Butch Jones
3rd year (16-11)
Career record: 16-11
Offensive coordinator:
Mike Bajakian (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Tim Banks (3rd year)

Stadium: Kelly/Shorts Stadium (30,255)
Tickets: 989-774-3045
Site: Mount Pleasant
Official athletic Web site:
www.cmuchippewas.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	13	Dan LeFevour (6-3, 223, Sr.)
RB	35	Bryan Schroeder (5-9, 211, So.)
LOT	73	Jake Olson (6-8, 268, Fr.)
LOG	66	Jeff Maddux (6-5, 314, Jr.)
C	63	Colin Miller (6-3, 291, Jr.)
ROG	64	Allen Ollenburger (6-4, 274, Sr.)
ROT	86	Rocky Weaver (6-6, 251, So.)
TE	82	David Blackburn (6-3, 232, So.)
WR	7	Bryan Anderson (6-5, 201, Sr.)
WR	27	Antonio Brown (5-10, 180, Jr.)
WR	1	Kito Poblah (6-2, 203, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	98	Frank Zombo (6-4, 269, Sr.)
LDT	54	Sean Murnane (6-1, 266, Jr.)
RDT	94	John Williams (5-10, 275, So.)
RDE	15	Sam Williams (6-3, 238, Sr.)
SLB	46	Matt Berning (6-0, 238, Jr.)
MLB	43	Nick Bellore (6-1, 245, Jr.)
WLB	17	Tim Brazzel (6-0, 238, Jr.)
LCB	19	Josh Gordy (5-11, 192, Sr.)
RCB	31	Kirkston Edwards (6-1, 190, Sr.)
FS	22	Vince Agnew (5-10, 193, Jr.)
SS	12	Eric Fraser (6-1, 215, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	36	Andrew Aguila (5-11, 183, Sr.)
P	34	Jake Linklater (6-2, 199, So.)

Sporting News All-American

3 NORTHERN ILLINOIS HUSKIES

Northern Illinois proved that its two-win season in 2007 was an aberration, earning the school's third bowl bid in five seasons while challenging for the Mid-American Conference West title last year. But there's a chance for a fall-off this season, since the Huskies had 19 seniors on the '08 roster.

The offense should be able to handle the losses, as a number of underclassmen played key roles in '08. Quarterback Chandler Harnish saw extensive action as a redshirt freshman and returns this season after throwing for 1,528 yards and eight touchdowns. However, he must improve on nine interceptions.

Harnish will have a new set of receivers to throw to after four seniors graduated. The top returnees are tight end Reed Cunningham (252 yards, 3 TDs) and wideout Landon Cox (16 receptions, 126 yards).

There should be competition at tailback, where the top returning player, sophomore Me'co Brown (510 rushing yards), will be challenged by junior Chad Spann and redshirt junior Ricky Crider, both of whom played in all 13 games last year.

The offensive line needs replacements at guard and right tackle, but redshirt senior Eddie Adamski and redshirt sophomore Trevor Olson return after starting every game last season.

The graduation losses hit harder on defense, with the biggest being two-time MAC Defensive Player of the Year Larry English. Among those expected to step forward on the line is Brandon Bice.

Senior free safety David Bryant returns after leading the team with 83 tackles a year ago, while junior strong safety Mike Sobol is also back.

Senior kicker Mike Salerno earned All-MAC honors last season, as 16 of his 65 kickoffs were downed in the end zone. Look for him to add punting chores to his duties this fall.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@WISCONSIN	
S.12	Western Illinois	
S.19	@PURDUE	
S.26	Idaho	

GAME TO WATCH

0.3 Western Michigan 26-29

The Huskies open conference play at home against the Chippewas and need a win against one of the league's perennial contenders to be taken seriously.

0.17	@TOLEDO	38-7
0.24	@MIAMI (OH)	17-13
0.31	Akron	
N.5	Eastern Michigan	37-0
N.12	Ball State	14-45
N.21	@OHIO	
N.27	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	30-33 (OT)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 6-7
MAC: 5-3
(lost to Louisiana Tech in the Independence Bowl, 17-10)

Coach: Jerry Kill
2nd year (6-7)
Career record: 6-7
Offensive coordinator:
Matt Limegrover (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Tracy Claeys (2nd year)

Stadium: Huskie Stadium (24,000)
Tickets: 815-752-6800
Site: DeKalb
Official athletic Web site:
www.niuhuskies.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Chandler Harnish (6-2, 210, So.)
FB	34	Kyle Skarb (6-2, 220, Jr.)
RB	8	Me'co Brown (5-7, 180, So.)
LOT	62	Trevor Olson (6-6, 290, So.)
LOG	65	Jason Onyebuagu (6-2, 305, Sr.)
C	50	Eddie Adamski (6-3, 280, Sr.)
ROG	61	Panan Tense (6-4, 300, Jr.)
ROT	59	Kevin Skatrud (6-6, 330, So.)
TE	83	Reed Cunningham (6-5, 245, Sr.)
WR	10	Willie Clark (6-1, 190, So.)
WR	80	Landon Cox (6-3, 215, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	56	Brandon Bice (6-4, 250, Sr.)
NG	58	Mike Krause (6-4, 270, Jr.)
DT	98	D.J. Pirkle (6-0, 270, Jr.)
RDE	54	Jake Coffman (6-5, 245, Jr.)
SLB	37	Alex Kube (6-0, 220, Jr.)
MLB	29	Pat Schiller (6-2, 225, So.)
WLB	26	Cory Hanson (6-2, 225, Sr.)
LCB	33	Patrick George (5-11, 190, Jr.)
RCB	23	Kiaree Daniels (5-10, 190, Jr.)
FS	4	David Bryant (5-11, 205, Sr.)
SS	38	Mike Sobol (6-0, 195, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	16	Mike Salerno (5-11, 165, Sr.)
P	16	Mike Salerno (5-11, 165, Sr.)

4 BALL STATE CARDINALS

The 2008 season was one of the best in Ball State history—but not as good as it could have been.

The Cardinals saw an undefeated campaign and potential top-10 national ranking sabotaged by an upset loss to Buffalo in the MAC Championship Game. They then finished the year with a one-sided defeat to Tulsa in the GMAC Bowl after former coach Brady Hoke flew the coop for San Diego State.

A new season hasn't been kind to the Cardinals either. Graduation stripped the roster of 11 starters—and seven of those earned All-MAC honors last year. Perhaps the most hurtful was the loss of star quarterback Nate Davis, who decided to forgo his senior year to enter the NFL draft.

Yes, there's quite a rebuilding task for new coach Stan Parrish, but the cupboard isn't bare. Davis likely will be replaced by redshirt freshman Kelly Page, while the ground game will be led by MiQuale Lewis, an All-MAC performer who ran for 1,736 yards and 22 touchdowns last season.

Lewis will run behind a revamped line led by Michael Switzer, the only returning starter.

The strength of the defense should be the line, which returns four starters in All-MAC end Brandon Crawford, Drew Duffin, Rene Perry and Robert Eddins. Junior Davyd Jones (85 tackles) is the only starting linebacker returning.

After losing both All-MAC cornerbacks, Ball State will need a strong effort from safety Sean Baker (6 INTs).

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.3	North Texas
S.12	New Hampshire
S.19	@ARMY
S.26	@AUBURN
0.3	Toledo
0.10	@TEMPLE
0.17	Bowling Green
0.24	@EASTERN MICHIGAN
0.31	Ohio
N.12	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS
N.18	Central Michigan

GAME TO WATCH

N.24 @WESTERN MICHIGAN

This season finale will wrap up a tough three-game stretch. Ball State must go at least 2-1 to have a shot at the division.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 12-2 **MAC:** 8-0
(lost to Tulsa in the GMAC Bowl, 45-13)

Coach: Stan Parrish, 1st year (0-1; head coach in 2009 GMAC Bowl)
Career record: 2-31-1
Offensive coord.: Eddie Faulkner (1st year)
Defensive coord.: Doug Graber (1st year)

Stadium: Scheumann Stadium (22,500)
Tickets: 765-285-1474 **Site:** Muncie, Ind.
Official athletic Web site:
www.ballstatesports.com

5 TOLEDO ROCKETS

New coach Tim Beckman has stressed competition to the Toledo Rockets. He's gone so far as to divide the roster into eight "teams" to compete in a variety of areas, including conditioning and academics.

Among the returnees is quarterback Aaron Opelt, a three-year starter who fought through injuries last season to rack up 2,176 passing yards and 12 touchdowns. While two-time All-MAC receiver Stephen Williams is back, fellow all-league receiver Nick Moore has graduated, meaning Williams could see more double coverage from secondaries.

There is also solid depth at running back, as senior All-MAC performer DaJuane Collins is backed by sophomore Morgan Williams, who ran for 1,010 yards last year after Collins went down with an injury.

All five starters are back on the offensive line, a group led by seniors Jared DeWalt and Buster Garrett.

While the Rockets' defense ranked 10th in the MAC in points allowed (31.4 per game), there are several solid players on this unit, including safety Barry Church, a three-time first-team All-MAC performer, and linebacker Archie Donald, who led the team with 119 tackles last season.

The biggest question for Toledo lies on the defensive line, where the team struggled to generate a rush and finished with just 10 sacks in 2008. Senior Skylaar Constant was the best of the bunch with 56 tackles.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.5	@PURDUE
S.11	Colorado
S.26	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
0.3	@BALL STATE
0.10	Western Michigan
0.17	Northern Illinois
0.24	Temple
0.31	@MIAMI (OH)
N.11	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN
N.20	Eastern Michigan
N.27	@BOWLING GREEN

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 Ohio State*

Technically, this is a home game, even though the Rockets will be playing in Cleveland Browns Stadium and the Buckeyes' faithful will outnumber Toledo fans.

** at Cleveland*

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 3-9 **MAC:** 2-6

Coach: Tim Beckman, 1st year
Offensive coord.: Matt Campbell (1st year)
Defensive coord.: Mike Ward (1st year), Paul Nichols (1st year)

Stadium: Glass Bowl (26,248)
Tickets: 419-530-GOLD **Site:** Toledo, Ohio
Official athletic Web site:
www.utrockets.com

6 EASTERN MICHIGAN EAGLES

There is change afoot this season at Eastern Michigan. Ron English, formerly the defensive coordinator at Michigan and Louisville, will serve as coach.

And English has plenty to work with, as 16 starters return.

There are two options at quarterback in Andy Schmitt, who threw for 2,644 yards and 15 touchdowns in 10 starts last year, and Kyle McMahon, who passed for 574 yards in five appearances.

Whoever wins the quarterback job will throw to plenty of experienced wideouts. Senior Jacory Stone earned All-MAC honors last year, while junior tight end Josh LeDuc made 32 receptions.

The running game should be in good hands thanks to senior Terrence Blevins, who ran for a team-best 575 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2008.

Eastern Michigan's offensive line lost All-MAC tackle T.J. Lang, but should fare well as it returns Eric Davis, a two-year starter at center, and senior guards Andy Fretz and Stephen Johnson.

While a number of key players are back on defense, the losses include the team's top two tacklers in All-MAC linebacker Daniel Holtzclaw and safety Jacob Wyatt.

The line will be young, with Brandon Downs the only senior, but the returnees include sophomore Brad Ohrman, who had 11 tackles for loss in 2008.

Senior Jermaine Jenkins, the team's top returning tackler with 64 stops last year, heads the linebacking corps.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.5	ARMY
S.12	@NORTHWESTERN
0.3	TEMPLE
0.10	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN
0.17	Kent State
0.24	Ball State
0.31	@ARKANSAS
N.5	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS
N.14	Western Michigan
N.20	@TOLEDO
N.27	@AKRON

GAME TO WATCH

S.19 @MICHIGAN

Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor are just minutes apart, and new coach Ron English knows the way after serving five seasons as a Wolverines assistant.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 3-9 **MAC:** 2-6

Coach: Ron English, 1st year
Offensive coord.: Ken Karcher (1st year)
Defensive coord.: Eric Lewis (1st year)

Stadium: Rynearson Stadium (30,200)
Tickets: 734-487-2282 **Site:** Ypsilanti
Official athletic Web site:
www.emueagles.com

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

SUN BELT

STOCK REPORT UP DOWN STEADY

1 Troy
2 Arkansas State
3 Florida Atlantic
4 Middle Tennessee
5 Louisiana-Monroe
6 Louisiana-Lafayette
7 Florida International
8 North Texas
9 Western Kentucky

RATING THE PLAYERS

Fastest Receiver
T.Y. Hilton, Florida International

Best Hands
Jerrel Jernigan, WR, Troy

Best Passing QB
Rusty Smith, Florida Atlantic

Best Running QB
Corey Leonard, Arkansas State

Most Elusive RB
Cam Montgomery, North Texas

Best Instincts
Corey Leonard, QB, Arkansas State

Best Athlete
T.Y. Hilton, WR, Florida International

Best Under Pressure
Rusty Smith, QB, Florida Atlantic

Top NFL Prospect
Brandon Lang, DE, Troy

Top Impact Freshman
Josh Jarboe, WR, Troy

Hardest Hitter
Boris Lee, LB, Troy

Biggest Underachiever
Dwight Dasher, QB, Middle Tennessee

Best Home-Field Advantage
Troy

Best Fans
Louisiana-Lafayette

Best Mascot
Big Red, Western Kentucky

Best Stadium
Movie Gallery Stadium, Troy

Belt not rolling over for BCS schools

By Michael Bradley, *correspondent*

The nation's economy may be staggering, but these are boom times for the Sun Belt Conference.

The league welcomes a new member this year, Western Kentucky, and will expand to 10 teams by 2013 with the addition of South Alabama, which brings its football program to life this year. Florida International opened its new stadium a year ago. Four Sun Belt teams were eligible for bowl games in '08, and Florida Atlantic became the first school in conference history to win back-to-back postseason contests.

Not that the Sun Belt is headed for BCS qualification or inclusion in talk about the big boys.

Instead, it's trying to become a solid mid-major with a stable membership and the ability to be more than just cannon fodder for the larger programs that pay its schools large amounts for nonconference victories. The Sun Belt has a bright future and, with few exceptions, that goes for its teams, too.

Although Western Kentucky has a long way to go before it can challenge for the title, North Texas and FIU (both of which struggled last year with young teams) will be better. Middle Tennessee is also on the rise.

Louisiana-Monroe and Louisiana-Lafayette have some issues, but neither will endure too much hardship. Don't ever underestimate Florida Atlantic, as long as veteran coach Howard Schnellenberger is running the show. And there is an interesting battle brewing at the top between Troy and Arkansas State, which both possess some impressive offensive firepower.

There are some talented individuals returning as well. Troy's DuJuan Harris and Arkansas State's Reggie Arnold both topped the 1,000-yard mark on the ground last year and are big reasons for their teams' respective flourishing offenses. Quarterback Rusty Smith, who threw for 3,224 yards last year, will trigger Florida Atlantic's attack. Louisiana-Monroe linebacker Cardia Jackson is back after piling up 127 stops, and T.Y. Hilton of FIU averaged an impressive 24.7 yards per catch.

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

By Barton Simmons, *Rivals.com*

1. TROY Troy signed 39 prospects this year. If the top players among that group land on campus, the Trojans will become major impact players in the Sun Belt.

2. FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL With athletes such as Wayne Times and Larvez Mars coming aboard, coach Mario Cristobal has capitalized on the talent available in the state of Florida.

3. FLORIDA ATLANTIC Only two of FAU's 26 signees came from outside Florida.

4. ARKANSAS STATE Former Tulsa quarterback commitment Phillip Butterfield highlights this class.

5. WESTERN KENTUCKY The Hilltoppers put together a solid 2009 class with some talented prospects who slipped through the cracks of the bigger programs.

6. MIDDLE TENNESSEE The Blue Raiders worked hard in Georgia to power a class that filled their recruiting needs.

7. NORTH TEXAS After stockpiling some offensive talent during his first couple of years at North Texas, Todd Dodge focused on defense in 2009—particularly on the line.

8. LOUISIANA-MONROE With only five of its 27 signees from Louisiana, ULM coaches worked hard in Mississippi and Texas to fill out this class.

9. LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE The Ragin' Cajuns took a small class in 2009, signing only 18 prospects. Running back Robert Walker was one of the most productive prep backs in Louisiana.

ALL-SUN BELT

OFFENSE

QB Rusty Smith, Sr., Florida Atlantic
RB Reggie Arnold, Sr., Arkansas State
RB DuJuan Harris, Jr., Troy
OL Brad Bustle, Sr., La.-Lafayette
OL Chris Fisher, Sr., La.-Lafayette
OL Brad Serini, Jr., Florida International
OL Jonathan Decoster, Jr., La.-Lafayette
OL Tyler Clark, Jr., Troy
TE Jamari Grant, Sr., Florida Atlantic
WR Jerrel Jernigan, Jr., Troy
WR T.Y. Hilton, So., Florida International

DEFENSE

DL Alex Carrington, Sr., Arkansas State
DL Brandon Lang, Sr., Troy
DL Cameron Sheffield, Sr., Troy
DL Aaron Morgan, Sr., La.-Monroe
LB Cardia Jackson, Sr., La.-Monroe
LB Boris Lee, Sr., Troy
LB Tobe Nwigwe, Sr., North Texas
DB Anthony Gaitor, Jr., Florida International
DB Josh Thompson, Sr., La.-Monroe
DB Jeremy Killen, Jr., Middle Tennessee
DB Ed Alexander, Sr., Florida Atlantic

SPECIALISTS

K Josh Arauco, Sr., Arkansas State
P Carlos Munera, Sr., Florida International

FOUR FEARLESS FORECASTS

1 As usual, Troy will import a group of junior-college transfers and turn them into productive performers quickly. And some large schools—Arkansas and Florida, for example—will underestimate the Trojans and get one heck of a scare, if not a defeat.

2 Western Kentucky fans' riotous enthusiasm will wane as the season plays out, thanks to a long road in Sun Belt play. Welcome to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

3 North Texas quarterback Riley Dodge won't be the Mean Green's savior, but he will show a strong grasp of his father's unique offense and flash skills that should make fans optimistic.

4 Even though his team has lost the guts of its ground game, Louisiana-Lafayette coach Rickey Bustle will find a way to put together a strong rushing attack that becomes one of the best in the country.

ASCENDING

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL The Golden Panthers have a two-year-old stadium, some young talent and a coach (Mario Cristobal) who knows what he's doing. Bowl contention is not far off.

DESCENDING

LOUISIANA-MONROE The Warhawks have two new coordinators, and if things don't pick up, they could have a new coach in 2010. Monroe better hope its strong recruiting class and new spread offense pay dividends.

SUN BELT PRESEASON RANK

TROY TROJANS 1

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.3	@BOWLING GREEN	
S.12	@FLORIDA	
S.19	UAB	
S.26	@ARKANSAS STATE	35-9
O.6	Middle Tennessee	31-17
O.17	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	33-23
O.24	North Texas	45-17
O.31	Louisiana-Monroe	30-31
N.7	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	17-7
N.14	@ARKANSAS	
N.21	Florida Atlantic	30-17
N.28	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	48-3

GAME TO WATCH

S.12 @FLORIDA

The Trojans have a history of giving big-time teams hard times. Witness last year's close call at LSU. If the Gators are still admiring their national-title rings, they could be in trouble.

BOWL PROJECTION LOWER TIER BOWL

» NEW ORLEANS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE B

TEACHER COMMENTS:

» Plenty of skill players bring offensive explosiveness.

» Tradition of success breeds confidence.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
Sun Belt: 6-1
(lost to Southern Miss in the New Orleans Bowl in OT, 30-27)

Coach: Larry Blakeney
19th year (144-73-1)
Career record: 144-73-1
Offensive coordinator:
Neal Brown (3rd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Jeremy Rowell (3rd year)

Stadium: Movie Gallery Stadium (30,000)
Tickets: 877-878-9467
Site: Troy, Ala.
Official athletic Web site:
www.troytrojans.com

The Trojans are favored to win a fourth straight Sun Belt title because they field the best arsenal of skill-position players in the league. And though there are some holes, mostly on the defense, few coaches are more capable of rebuilding with transfers than Larry Blakeney.

Take the quarterback spot, for instance. Last year, Troy had to replace Omar Haugabrook and his tremendous production. Enter Levi Brown. The '08 Sun Belt Newcomer of the Year and transfer from Richmond completed 61.7 percent of his passes for 15 touchdowns against just three picks last year.

Brown will get solid production from tailback DuJuan Harris, who gained 1,077 yards and scored 11 times a year ago.

The Trojans have a pile of receivers at Brown's disposal, beginning with Jerrel Jernigan (77 catches). Seniors Andrew Davis and Cornelius Williams are also reliable targets, and junior-college transfers Jason Bruce and Tebiarus Gill will compete for playing time.

The diamond-in-the-rough could be former five-star recruit Josh Jarboe, a freshman who was set to attend Oklahoma last year before off-field issues directed him to Troy.

Senior ends Brandon Lang (10.5 sacks) and Cameron Sheffield (5.5) should be even more formidable once tackle Eugene Kinlaw cracks the lineup. The reigning national juco Defensive Player of the Year recorded 11 sacks in '08. Former Miami (Fla.) signee Antonio Harper, who spent last year at Hargrave Military (Va.) Academy, will also provide depth along the line.

Linebackers Boris Lee (126 tackles) and Bear Woods (108) are back, but the Trojans need help in the secondary, where only senior cornerback Jorrick Calvin returns.

Junior-college transfer Barry Valcin has an athletic pedigree and will battle KeJuan Phillips for the other starting corner spot, while senior safeties Courtland Fuller and Chris Bowens have each gained considerable experience in backup roles and should step up to a leadership position.

The special teams are in great shape. Sam Glusman converted 20 of 29 field-goal tries last year, including seven of nine from 40-49 yards. Sophomore punter Will Goggans had a solid debut, averaging 39.2 yards per boot.

At some point, Troy isn't going to win the Sun Belt title. But this season doesn't appear to be that time. The Trojans have too much offensive firepower, and if the secondary comes around, any holes on defense will take care of themselves.

Although the conference is gaining on Blakeney's bullies, the other schools won't supplant the three-time defending champion in 2009.

Barring a rash of injuries, Troy has what it takes to secure a fourth straight conference title and the replacement parts to keep the fun going all season long.

LEVI BROWN • QB

CRYSTAL LOGIUDICE / US PRESSWIRE

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	12	Levi Brown (6-4, 219, Sr.)
RB	32	DuJuan Harris (5-7, 183, Jr.)
LOT	66	Nic Riley (6-4, 304, Sr.)
LOG	73	Steven Adams (6-3, 315, Sr.)
C	75	Danny Franks (6-3, 310, Sr.)
ROG	58	Tyler Clark 6-2, 275, Jr.)
ROT		Tyler Graves (6-6, 300, Jr.)
WR	3	Jerrel Jernigan (5-9, 173, Jr.)
WR	1	Cornelius Williams (6-0, 190, Sr.)
WR	4	Andrew Davis (5-9, 177, Sr.)
WR	5	Josh Jarboe (6-3, 195, Fr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	91	Brandon Lang (6-4, 256, Sr.)
LDT	59	Kevin Dixon (6-2, 271, Sr.)
RDT		Eugene Kinlaw (6-2, 294, Jr.)
RDE	90	Cameron Sheffield (6-2, 237, Sr.)
SLB	50	David McDowell (6-1, 247, Sr.)
MLB	2	Boris Lee (6-0, 224, Sr.)
WLB	48	Bear Woods (6-0, 228, Sr.)
LCB	34	KeJuan Phillips (5-10, 178, So.)
RCB	14	Jorrick Calvin (5-10, 181, Sr.)
FS	13	Chris Bowens (6-0, 187, Sr.)
SS	18	Courtland Fuller (5-11, 199, Sr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	38	Sam Glusman (5-10, 166, Sr.)
P	47	Will Goggans (6-0, 223, So.)

5-YEAR WINS TREND

RATING THE RECRUITS

1 — Eugene Kinlaw
DT, 6-2, 294
Kinlaw was a huge pickup for Troy; he was one of the most highly rated junior-college defensive players in the nation last year.

2 — Antonio Harper
LB, 6-4, 230
After signing with Miami out of high school, Troy was fortunate to pick up this headhunter after he spent a year in prep school.

3 — Jonathan Massaquoi
DE, 6-4, 240
Massaquoi is a college-ready defender who can step in and make an immediate impact on the defensive line.

4 — Dontavious Pyron
DT, 6-1, 270
Pyron was one of the most physically dominating prep defensive linemen in the state of Florida, and the Trojans stole him.

5 — Shawn Southward
RB, 5-9, 185
A dominating all-star game performance saw Southward's stock go through the roof. He'll do well with the Trojans.

THE NEXT BIG THING

EUGENE KINLAW, DT

The 6-2, 294-pounder from Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College was the 2008 NJCAA Defensive Player of Year. He'll provide immediate relief.

2 ARKANSAS STATE RED WOLVES

With a steady 2008 campaign, the Red Wolves gave fans a glimpse of what's ahead with an offense that returns all of its major skill-position players and should be efficient against defensive secondaries. Arkansas State set a school record for total offense in 2008 (4,786 yards) and it has a good chance to top that this season. Whether it's good enough to supplant Troy at the top of the Sun Belt standings depends on a line that needs three new members to come together quickly.

The backfield is in great shape. Senior quarterback Corey Leonard returns after throwing for 2,347 yards and running for 516 more last year. He tossed 16 touchdowns to eight picks, but his 54.2 completion percentage was substandard.

If Leonard can become more accurate, senior receivers Jahbari McLennan and Brandon Thompkins will flourish. Each caught 32 passes last year but have the potential to close their careers on a higher note.

With the return of running backs Reggie Arnold (1,074 yards, 7 TDs) and Derek Lawson (695, 4), the ground attack packs a punch. Add in Leonard, and you have an unstoppable offensive package.

Arkansas State's defense brings back eight starters, most notably end Alex Carrington (53 tackles, 10.5 sacks) and tackle Bryan Hall (39, 5).

Senior Darious Glover leads the linebacking corps, while strong safety M.D. Jennings and cornerback Daylan Walker are the stalwarts in the secondary.

Senior Josh Arauco made 17 of 20 field goals last year, including four of five from 40-plus yards. Sophomore Ryan Wilbourn takes over the punting duties after handling kickoffs last year.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Mississippi Valley State	
S.12	@NEBRASKA	

GAME TO WATCH

S.26 Troy 9-35

This early clash between the league's top teams could decide the championship—or at least give one squad a leg up.

0.3	@IOWA	
0.13	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	37-29
0.24	Florida International	21-22
0.31	@LOUISVILLE	
N.7	Louisiana-Lafayette	23-28
N.14	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	28-14
N.21	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	31-14
N.28	North Texas	33-28
D.3	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 6-6
Sun Belt: 4-3

Coach: Steve Roberts
8th year (37-47)
Career Record: 37-47 (FBS)
Offensive coordinator:
Doug Ruse (8th year)
Defensive coordinator:
Kevin Corless (8th year)

Stadium: ASU Stadium (30,964)
Tickets: 888-ASU-FANS
Site: Jonesboro
Official athletic Web site:
www.asuindians.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	1	Corey Leonard (6-1, 207, Sr.)
FB	42	Jeff Blake (5-10, 239, Jr.)
RB	2	Reggie Arnold (5-9, 219, Sr.)
LOT	67	Kiano Prater (6-3, 292, Sr.)
LOG	60	Dominic Padrta (6-4, 312, Sr.)
C	73	Tom Castilaw (6-3, 297, Jr.)
ROG	61	Drew Hilton (6-3, 302, Jr.)
ROT	72	Derek Newton (6-5, 313, Sr.)
TE	87	J.T. Jordan (6-1, 274, Sr.)
WR	9	Jahbari McLennan (5-11, 188, Sr.)
WR	14	Brandon Thompkins (5-9, 180, Sr)

DEFENSE

LDE	98	Alex Carrington (6-5, 284, Sr.)
LDT	99	Khari Mays (6-2, 288, Sr.)
RDT	90	Bryan Hall (6-1, 284, Jr.)
RDE	54	Stanley Wakwe (6-1, 246, Sr.)
SLB	46	Darius Glover (6-1, 220, Jr.)
MLB	30	Michael Adams (6-1, 245, So.)
WLB	7	Greg Hardy (6-0, 246, Sr.)
LCB	28	Paul Stephens (5-9, 166, Sr.)
RCB	13	Daylan Walker (5-9, 177, Sr.)
FS	39	Evan Van Dolah (6-2, 213, Sr.)
SS	26	M.D. Jennings (6-0, 172, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	89	Josh Arauco (5-9, 218, Sr.)
P	83	Ryan Wilbourn (5-10, 157, So.)

3 FLORIDA ATLANTIC OWLS

Despite being soaked with Gatorade, Howard Schnellenberger was smiling ear-to-ear after Florida Atlantic beat Central Michigan 24-21 to win the Motor City Bowl last year. It was the second straight bowl victory for a program in its infancy.

Don't be surprised if Schnellenberger is a proud papa again in 2009, as Florida Atlantic has a good shot to make its third consecutive postseason appearance in the program's eight-year history.

The Owls boast a strong passing game with quarterback Rusty Smith, who threw for 3,224 yards and 24 touchdowns last year.

Granted, he needs to cut back on his 14 interceptions and improve on a 53.8 completion percentage. But Smith has a good arm and is expected to return to his '07 form, when he was named Sun Belt Player of the Year.

Receivers Cortez Gent (60 receptions, 9 TDs) and Chris Bonner (22, 3) are big targets. And Smith will no doubt benefit from the return of tight end Jason Harmon, who was coming off an All-Sun Belt Conference season in '07 with 63 catches for five touchdowns before he tore his ACL last spring.

The FAU defense has some holes, most notably in the front seven.

Senior tackle Josh Savidge registered 28 tackles last year, but he doesn't have much company in terms of returning production.

Linebacker Edward Bradwell is solid, while corners Tavious Polo and Tarvoris Hill are capable. Safety Ed Alexander picked off three passes last season.

Keegan Peterson averaged just 38.3 yards per punt last year and the Owls must find a new kicker, with junior Ross Gornall the prime candidate.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@NEBRASKA	0-00
S.19	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
S.26	Louisiana-Monroe	29-28
0.3	Wyoming	
0.17	@NORTH TEXAS	46-13
0.24	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	40-29
0.31	Middle Tennessee	13-14
N.7	@UAB	49-34

GAME TO WATCH

N.14 Arkansas State 14-28

The Owls will be bidding for bowl eligibility for a third straight year, and a win over Arkansas State would help secure that distinction.

N.21	@TROY	17-30
N.28	Western Kentucky	24-20
D.5	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	57-50 (OT)

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
Sun Belt: 4-3
(beat Central Michigan in the Motor City Bowl, 24-21)

Coach: Howard Schnellenberger
9th year (48-48)
Career Record: 148-125-3
Offensive coordinator:
Darryl Jackson (1st year)
Defensive coordinator:
Kirk Hoza (1st year)

Stadium: Lockhart Stadium (20,500)
Tickets: 866-FAU-OWLS
Site: Boca Raton
Official athletic Web site:
www.fausports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	11	Rusty Smith (6-5, 230, Sr.)
FB	46	William Rose (6-1, 230, Sr.)
RB	25	Jeff Blanchard (5-9, 195, Jr.)
LOT	70	Lavoris Williams (6-4, 285, Jr.)
LOG	53	Samuel McRoy (6-4, 280, So.)
C	76	Ryan Wischnefski (6-2, 317, Jr.)
ROG	73	Kevin Miller (6-3, 310, Sr.)
ROT	74	Carl Spitale (6-8, 340, Sr.)
TE	88	Jason Harmon (6-3, 215, Sr.)
WR	16	Cortez Gent (6-2, 185, Sr.)
WR	7	Chris Bonner (6-3, 195, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	75	Jamere Johnson (6-4, 220, So.)
LDT	9	Jarvis Givens (6-3, 300, So.)
RDT	95	Josh Savidge (6-2, 270, Sr.)
RDE	94	Jermaine Council (6-5, 275, Sr.)
SLB	39	Malik Eugene (6-3, 235, Jr.)
MLB	45	Michael Lockley (6-3, 240, Jr.)
WLB	47	Edward Bradwell (6-1, 220, Sr.)
LCB	9	Tarvoris Hill (6-0, 170, Jr.)
RCB	5	Tavious Polo (5-11, 175, Jr.)
FS	38	Ed Alexander (6-1, 172, Jr.)
SS	37	Austen Jensen (6-2, 200, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

PK	20	Ross Gornall (5-11, 190, Jr.)
P	22	Keegan Peterson (6-1, 175, Sr.)

4 MIDDLE TENNESSEE BLUE RAIDERS

Offensive coordinator Tony Franklin's departure from Auburn was not the smoothest, but the landing at Middle Tennessee was soft, and his tenure could be prosperous.

The reason is the spread-offense guru has some good weapons at his disposal.

The first order of business is getting quarterback Dwight Dasher ready under center. The junior can run, but his passing has been suspect, as evidenced by his 38.6 completion percentage in limited action. If Dasher can't become more accurate, he'll have trouble taking the job.

Senior running back Phillip Tanner came on strong at the end of '08 and scored 15 touchdowns, while receivers Eldred King (51 receptions) and Malcolm Beyah (33) should be key targets in the air attack. And since all five starters are back on the line, protection won't be a problem.

The defense needs help at linebacker, but there are playmakers worth watching, most notably Danny Carmichael. Last year, the senior made 75.5 tackles, including 11.5 behind the line.

Tackle Dwight Smith found his way into enemy backfields 7.5 times last year, while senior corner Alex Suber had a pair of interceptions.

The kicking game is in fine shape, thanks to the return of kicker Alan Gendreau (10-of-14 on field goals) and punter David DeFatta (40.9 yards per punt).

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.5	@CLEMSON
S.12	Memphis
S.19	@MARYLAND
S.26	@NORTH TEXAS
0.6	@TROY
0.17	Mississippi State
0.24	WESTERN KENTUCKY
0.31	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC
N.7	Florida International
N.14	Louisiana-Lafayette
N.21	Arkansas State
N.28	@LOUISIANA-MONROE

GAME TO WATCH

0.21 Arkansas State

The Blue Raiders are trying to re-establish themselves as contenders in the Sun Belt, and a win here would be a good start.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7 **Sun Belt:** 3-4

Coach: Rick Stockstill, 4th year (17-20)
Career record: 17-20
Offensive coord.: Tony Franklin (1st year)
Defensive coord.: Manny Diaz (4th year)

Stadium: Johnny "Red" Floyd Stadium (30,788)
Tickets: 888-YES-MTSU
Site: Murfreesboro
Official athletic Web site:
www.goblueraiders.com

5 LOUISIANA-MONROE WARHAWKS

When seven-year coach Charlie Weatherbie patrols the sidelines this fall, one of his pregame tasks may be to hand out nametags to his assistant coaches.

The Warhawks come into 2008 with six new coaches, including three coordinators: Jonas Weatherbie (Charlie's son) and Vance Vice on offense and Tony Reffett for the defense.

The new staff will have their hands full since the Warhawks are without some key performers on each side of the ball and must fix both lines.

The most pressing question is at quarterback, where Kinsmon Lancaster's departure leaves junior Trey Revell in charge. Revell saw mop-up time in nine games last year.

As a safety valve, Revell will have Frank Goodin (783 yards, 5 TDs) behind him to handle the running chores.

The line needs work after giving up 31 sacks last year. Fonda White, a junior-college transfer, will look to help.

With seven starters back on defense, the Warhawks have some potential, but must do a better job of getting to the quarterback after registering just 13 sacks in 2008.

End Aaron Morgan, who had six of those sacks, and tackle Aaron Williams return.

The strength of the defense comes at linebacker, where Cardia Jackson (127 tackles), Josh Thompson (108) and Theo Smith (49) are back. Corners Nate Brown and Otis Stamps are also solid performers.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.5	@TEXAS
S.12	Texas Southern
S.19	@ARIZONA STATE
S.26	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC
0.3	Florida International
0.13	Arkansas State
0.24	@KENTUCKY
0.31	@TROY
N.7	@NORTH TEXAS
N.14	Western Kentucky
N.21	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
N.28	Middle Tennessee

GAME TO WATCH

N.28 Middle Tennessee

With the pressure on Charlie Weatherbie, this season-closer will either be a step toward job security or a final axe.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 4-8 **Sun Belt:** 3-4

Coach: Charlie Weatherbie, 7th year (25-45)
Career record: 70-109
Passing-game coord.: Jonas Weatherbie (1st year)
Running-game coord.: Vance Vice (1st year)
Defensive coord.: Tony Reffett (1st year)

Stadium: Malone Stadium (30,427)
Tickets: 318-342-3ULM **Site:** Monroe
Official athletic Web site:
www.ulmathletics.com

6 LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE RAGIN' CAJUNS

As long as Rickey Bustle is coaching the Ragin' Cajuns, the team is going to run the football. Last year's squad was seventh in the country in ground production (263.7 yards a game), replicating its '07 performance. Louisiana-Lafayette finished seventh in 2005 as well.

A repeat performance may not happen this year, since the top two running backs and dual-threat quarterback Michael Desormeaux are gone.

The fight for the top signal-caller spot was not resolved during the spring and will continue through August. Sophomores Brad McGuire and Chris Masson and redshirt freshman Blaine Gauthier will fight it out.

As for the running-back slot, experience is just as scarce. The six backs on the roster have only 70 carries among them. The receiving corps was hit hard by graduation, too, but Marlin Miller and junior-college newcomer Vernon Wolfe looked good in the spring. The line boasts first-team All-Sun Belt members Brad Bustle and Chris Fisher.

The defense is strong at linebacker, thanks to the return of Daylon McCoy and Antwyne Zanders. There are plenty of upperclassmen along the line, but junior-college transfers Tyrell Gaddies and Jordan Topp will compete for rotation spots.

Orkeys Auriene and Dwight Bentley saw plenty of time at cornerback last year, but the Ragin' Cajuns need some safeties.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.5	Southern University
S.12	Kansas State
S.19	@LSU
S.26	@NEBRASKA
0.10	North Texas
0.17	@WESTERN KENTUCKY
0.24	Florida Atlantic
0.31	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
N.7	@ARKANSAS STATE
N.14	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE
N.21	Louisiana-Monroe
N.28	Troy

GAME TO WATCH

N.21 Louisiana-Monroe

The Cajuns always want to knock off their in-state rival, and this contest could make a case for bowl eligibility.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 6-6 **Sun Belt:** 5-2

Coach: Rickey Bustle, 8th year (32-50)
Career record: 32-50
Offensive coord.: Ron Hudson (2nd year)
Defensive coord.: Kevin Fouquier (3rd year)

Stadium: Cajun Field (31,000)
Tickets: 337-265-2100
Site: Lafayette
Official athletic Web site:
www.ragincajuns.com

7 FLA. INTERNATIONAL GOLDEN PANTHERS

After a pitiful 2007 campaign, the Golden Panthers made significant strides last year and should show signs of continued improvement this season.

With 16 starters back and another solid recruiting class coming to campus, Florida International is heading in the right direction.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.12	@ALABAMA
S.19	@RUTGERS
S.26	Toledo
0.3	@LOUISIANA-MONROE
0.10	@WESTERN KENTUCKY
0.17	Troy
0.24	@ARKANSAS STATE

GAME TO WATCH

0.31 Louisiana-Lafayette

The Golden Panthers are trying to climb the ranks, and a win over another middle-of-the-pack squad could put them over the top.

N.7	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE
N.14	North Texas
N.21	@FLORIDA
D.5	FLORIDA ATLANTIC

The trouble is several other teams in the Sun Belt are ahead of the Panthers in terms of depth, experience and talent.

If FIU is going to eclipse .500 this season, it has to run the ball better. The Panthers averaged just 2.8 yards per carry last year.

The good news is that all five starters are back along the offensive line, including senior tackles Joe Alajajian and Ula Matavao. That should help Darriet Perry (who replaces Julian Reams) mature into a productive running back.

Senior quarterback Paul McCall will have to work on his accuracy after completing just 52.7 percent of his passes last year. Helping McCall do that will be play-making receiver T.Y. Hilton (41 catches, 24.7 yards per catch).

The arrival of junior-college end Thatcher Starling could bolster a defensive line that registered only 18 sacks last year and wasn't successful against the run (156.2 yards per game).

Junior cornerback Anthony Gaitor, who returned two of his five interceptions for touchdowns a year ago, returns, as does stellar strong safety Jeremiah Weatherspoon.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 5-7 **Sun Belt:** 4-3

Coach: Mario Cristobal, 3rd year (6-18)
Career record: 6-18
Offensive coord.: Bill Legg (2nd year)
Defensive coord.: Phil Galiano (3rd year)

Stadium: FIU Stadium (20,000)
Tickets: 866-FIU-GAME
Site: Miami
Official athletic Web site:
www.fiusports.com

8 NORTH TEXAS MEAN GREEN

The Mean Green lived up to half of their nickname last year, with just a handful of seniors on the team. The good news is that North Texas has numerous starters back. The bad news? They are the same players who were only able to notch one win and allowed 47.6 points per game last year.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.3	@BALL STATE
S.12	Ohio
S.19	@ALABAMA

GAME TO WATCH

S.26 Middle Tennessee

The Mean Green's Sun Belt opener is a chance to put away last year's disappointments and prove they are headed in the right direction.

0.10	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
0.17	Florida Atlantic
0.24	@TROY
0.31	Western Kentucky
N.7	Louisiana-Monroe
N.14	@Florida International
N.21	Army
N.28	@ARKANSAS STATE

Improvement is desperately needed on defense, as North Texas gave up an FBS-worst 482.6 yards per game in 2008. Along the line, end Eddrick Gilmore anchors a unit that must improve.

Linebackers Tobe Nwigwe (111 tackles in 2008) and Craig Robertson (94) need to continue their production. Sophomore safety Darien Williams had a strong debut in '08 with 62 tackles, while senior Antoine Bush is the top cover corner on the team.

Expect opposing defenses to stack the box, as North Texas has a stout running game but will break in a new quarterback who will lose his top target. Riley Dodge, the son of coach Todd Dodge, will likely take over the signal-calling job. He knows the attack but needs experience. At his disposal is a fine collection of backs, led by Cam Montgomery, who gained 928 yards rushing in '08.

Dodge will miss the services of graduated receiver Casey Fitzgerald (113 receptions, 1,119 yards).

At least the line should provide some time for growth, since all five starters return. Center Kelvin Drake, an all-league performer in 2007, missed last season due to injury but is back.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 1-11 **Sun Belt:** 0-7

Coach: Todd Dodge, 3rd year (3-21)
Career record: 3-21
Offensive coord.: Todd Ford (3rd year)
Defensive coord.: Gary DeLoach (2nd year)

Stadium: Fouts Field (30,500)
Tickets: 800-UNT-2366
Site: Denton
Official athletic Web site:
www.meangreensports.com

9 WESTERN KENTUCKY HILLTOPPERS

Western Kentucky fans excited about their squad's ascension to full-fledged Division I status had better temper their enthusiasm, because this is likely to be a tough year for the Hilltoppers.

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
S.5	@TENNESSEE
S.12	South Florida
S.19	Central Arkansas
S.26	@NAVY
0.10	Florida Internationa
0.17	Louisiana-Lafayette
0.24	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE

GAME TO WATCH

0.31 North Texas

The Hilltoppers aren't likely to win many conference games this year, so this one could be the best chance for victory.

N.7	Troy
N.14	@LOUISIANA-MONROE
N.28	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC
D.3	Arkansas State

Western Kentucky played five Sun Belt opponents last year and lost all of those games by an average score of 28-16.

The Hilltoppers were shaky against the run, couldn't stop the pass and may be looking for a quarterback long into summer drills.

The offseason quarterback competition was fierce, as senior Brandon Smith was working with the first unit during the spring, but he hasn't fended off the challenges of redshirt freshmen Kawaun Jakes and Marcus Vasquez.

Whoever wins that battle will be helped by the return of all five starting offensive linemen and surehanded senior receiver Jake Gaebler (54 receptions, 4 TDs).

With no clear leader, the ground game will be taken care of largely by committee, but senior Tyrell Hayden (388 yards) should step up at some point.

Six starters are back on defense, but none should feel too comfortable after allowing 375.2 yards per game last year.

Linebacker Blake Boyd, who had 9.5 tackles for loss last year, returns, as do sophomore cornerbacks Ryan Beard (3 INTs) and Mark Santoro (2), who both have potential to make more big plays this season.

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 2-10

Coach: David Elson, 7th year (39-32)
Career record: 39-32
Offensive coord.: Walter Wells, 1st year
Defensive coord.: Mike Dietzel, 1st year

Stadium: L.T. Smith Stadium (17,500)
Tickets: 800-5-BIG-RED
Site: Bowling Green
Official athletic Web site:
www.wkusports.com

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

TOP 25 PICK

By Al Lesar, *South Bend (Ind.) Tribune*

JIMMY CLAUSEN ▸ QB

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	Nevada	
S.12	@MICHIGAN	35-17
S.19	Michigan State	7-23
S.26	@PURDUE	38-21
O.3	Washington	33-7
GAME TO WATCH		
O.17	USC	3-38
There are other rivalries, but this one measures a season. The Trojans have won seven in a row.		
O.24	Boston College	0-17
O.31	@WASHINGTON STATE*	
N.7	Navy	27-21
N.14	@PITTSBURGH	33-36 (OT)
N.21	Connecticut	
N.28	@STANFORD	28-21

** at San Antonio*

BOWL PROJECTION
» FIESTA BOWL

BCS BOWL

PROFESSOR'S GRADE ▸ B+

TEACHER COMMENTS:
- Receivers Michael Floyd and Golden Tate make quarterback Jimmy Clausen look good.
- The Irish's running game needs improvement.
- With so many new faces on defense, the jury is still out on the team's blocking abilities.

Hiccup or harbinger?

How will a 49-21 Hawaii Bowl victory over Hawaii in 2008 factor into the Notre Dame football program's big picture?

Fighting Irish coach Charlie Weis' first four years on the job have been punctuated by more question marks than exclamation points.

Season No. 5 features an offense loaded with experience, a manageable schedule and a coach who is starting to embrace the wide spectrum of pressures and influences that come with the job.

"Until you've lived through those things—and Notre Dame is different than just about anyplace else—you can never be totally prepared," Weis says. "Even though you go into it thinking and saying you would be."

The Irish offense is constructed on the right arm of quarterback Jimmy Clausen.

In the win over the outmanned Warriors from Hawaii, as Weis tells it, Clausen "pitched a perfect game."

Clausen has the capability to be one of the nation's best this season. However, he might be pushed. Dayne Crist, who redshirted last season, is now in the mix.

Receivers Michael Floyd and Golden Tate give Clausen some legitimate big-play threats. Add in Duval Kamara and tight ends Kyle Rudolph and Mike Ragone, and the passing game is well-stocked.

Despite the amazing bowl performance in paradise, it's not enough to wipe out the memories of nightmarish losses to Syracuse and USC, as the Irish stumbled home to a 6-6 regular season.

Notre Dame's inability to generate any sort of consistency in the running game kept the passing attack from reaching its peak. After ranking 115th nationally (75.3 rushing yards a game) in 2007, the Irish were 100th (109.7) last year.

While four running backs—Armando Allen, Robert Hughes, James Aldridge and Jonas Gray—are back with experience, the door is ajar to give heralded freshman Cierre Wood a chance to emerge.

Aldridge could be moved to the fullback spot, since there's no experience there.

Four starters on the offensive line—Dan Wenger (center), Chris Stewart (right guard), Eric Olsen (left guard) and Sam Young (right tackle)—are back. Paul Duncan, a starter two years ago who missed last season after hip surgery, is the leading contender at left tackle.

Trevor Robinson, Matt Romine and Lane Clelland are all guys who could compete and find a role this season.

New offensive line coach Frank Verducci, who spent eight of the last 10 years in the NFL, has the recipe for a cohesive running game.

"It's just a group of special people coming together," Verducci says. "It's unselfishness. It's a willingness not to let the other guy down. It's an unselfish attitude where you're going to do your part and you don't care who gets the glory for it.

MARCUS SNOWDEN / ICON SMI

"It's the satisfaction of leaving something behind that you can look back on and call your own.

"It's people. You learn very early on, you can be the smartest guy in the world, but if you can't bring a group together, get them to focus as one and get them to care about each other, you don't stand much of a chance."

Pulling together on defense will be a priority. The Irish have just a handful of players with starting experience.

Nose tackle Ian Williams and defensive end Kerry Neal, who sat out the spring with injuries, have been through the wars. The player to watch will be redshirt freshman Kapron Lewis-Moore, who is penciled in as a starter at end though he never played a snap while sitting out last year.

"I'm just going to go out and do my thing," Lewis-Moore says. "I know I'm going to mess up sometimes. I've just got to keep working hard and do whatever I can to help the team get better."

It may take a while for the linebacker corps to shake out. Darius Fleming, Zeke Motta, Brian Smith, Toryan Smith, Steve Filer and David Posluszny are all candidates to start. Manti Te'o, last winter's Signing Day surprise as one of the hottest commodities of the recruiting season, will also get a serious look.

Harrison Smith, who was a linebacker last season, has been moved back to his more natural position, free safety. Sergio Brown appears to be the leader at strong safety. Robert Blanton, E.J. Banks, Raeshon McNeil and Darrin Walls, who started in 2007 but left school for "personal reasons" last year, are the top prospects at cornerback.

Allen, Floyd and Tate will be key components of Notre Dame's kickoff- and punt-return units. Eric Maust is back as the Irish punter and Brandon Walker, who recovered after a shaky start last year, returns at kicker.

Notre Dame's schedule isn't the "Murderer's Row" it's been in recent years.

The Irish open with Nevada, then play their Big Ten stint against Michigan, Michigan State and Purdue—three programs in the retooling stage. A home game with Washington and a neutral-site contest with Washington State in San Antonio are both contests against programs that struggled last year.

The true measure of the season, as usual, will boil down to an Oct. 17 home game against USC.

RECRUITING REPORT

A casual follower of recruiting might find it odd to see one of Notre Dame's classes ranked outside of the nation's top 20, but the Irish signed just 18 prospects in 2009. As usual, it was a nationwide recruiting effort, with prospects coming to South Bend from all over.

Irish fans received good news when linebacker **Manti Te'o**, who many believed was headed to USC, committed to Notre Dame. Teo should be a defensive staple in the future. Four-star linebacker **Zeke Motta** of Vero Beach, Fla., is another big-time playmaker with excellent instincts.

On offense, guard **Chris Watt** was ranked as the nation's No. 2 prospect at his position by *Rivals.com*, and running back **Cierre Wood** was the No. 8 running back in the nation. Wide receiver **Shaquelle Evans** chose Notre Dame over USC.

While this class isn't big, it's high in quality. The offensive line will receive a big boost with four incoming prospects, and four linebackers should contribute upon their arrival in South Bend.

–Mike Ferrell, Rivals.com

THE NEXT BIG THING *KAPRON LEWIS-MOORE, DE*

Kapron Lewis-Moore may not be the answer to Notre Dame's lack of experience at defensive end, but his athleticism and attitude can make him great. He sat out last season and added 15 pounds.

RETURNING STAT LEADERS

OFFENSE

PASSING

Jimmy Clausen	GP	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct.	Yds.	TD	Avg/G
	13	132.5	268-440-17	60.9	3172	25	244

RUSHING	GP	Att.	Net	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Armando Allen	13	134	585	4.4	3	45

RECEIVING	GP	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TD	Avg/G
Golden Tate	13	58	1080	18.6	10	83.1

DEFENSE

TACKLES	GP	Solo	Assist	Total
Kyle McCarthy	13	64	46	110

SACKS	GP	No.	Yards
Harrison Smith	13	3.5	26

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TD
Robert Blandon	2	47	23.5	1

5-YEAR WINS TREND

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 7-6
(beat Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl, 49-21)

Coach: Charlie Weis
5th year (29-21)
Career record: 29-21
Offensive coordinator:
Charlie Weis (1st year)
Defensive coordinators:
Jon Tenuta (2nd year)
Corwin Brown (2nd year)

Stadium: Notre Dame Stadium (80,795)
Tickets: 574-631-7356
Site: Notre Dame, Ind.
Official athletic Web site:
www.und.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	7	Jimmy Clausen (6-3, 217, Jr.)
	10	Dayne Crist (6-4, 233, So.)
FB	34	James Aldridge (6-0, 258, Sr.)
	30	Steve Paskorz (6-2, 235, Jr.)
RB	5	Armando Allen (5-10, 195, Jr.)
	33	Robert Hughes (6-11, 237, Jr.)
LOT	72	Paul Duncan (6-7, 308, Sr.)
	77	Matt Romine (6-5, 292, Jr.)
LOG	55	Eric Olsen (6-4, 303, Sr.)
	76	Andrew Nuss (6-5, 304, Jr.)
C	51	Dan Wenger (6-4, 302, Sr.)
	52	Braxston Cave (6-3, 310, So.)
ROG	59	Chris Stewart (6-5, 337, Sr.)
	78	Trevor Robinson (6-5, 301, So.)
ROT	74	Sam Young (6-8, 330, Sr.)
	75	Taylor Deaver (6-5, 308, Jr.)
TE	9	Kyle Rudolph (6-6, 258, So.)
	83	Mike Ragone (6-5, 251, Jr.)
WR	23	Golden Tate (5-11, 195, Jr.)
	18	Duval Kamara (6-5, 219, Jr.)
WR	3	Michael Floyd (6-3, 215, So.)
	82	Robby Parris (6-3, 210, Sr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	89	Kapron Lewis-Moore (6-4, 265, r-So.)
	53	Morrice Richardson (6-2, 255, Sr.)
NT	95	Ian Williams (6-2, 310, Jr.)
	99	Brandon Newman (6-1, 310, So.)
DT	9	Ethan Johnson (6-4, 275, Jr.)
	79	Hafis Williams (6-1, 295, Jr.)
RDE	90	John Ryan (6-5, 264, Sr.)
	91	Emeka Nwankwo (6-4, 295, Jr.)
SLB	45	Darius Fleming (6-1, 236, So.)
	41	Scott Smith (6-3, 235, So.)
MLB	58	Brian Smith (6-3, 245, Jr.)
	46	Steve Filer (6-3, 236, So.)
WLB	49	Toryan Smith (6-1, 244, Sr.)
	36	David Posluszny (6-0, 220, So.)
CB	8	Raeshon McNeil (6-0, 190, Sr.)
	26	Jamoris Slaughter (6-0, 182, So.)
CB	12	Robert Blanton (6-1, 180, So.)
	2	Darrin Walls (6-0, 190, Sr.)
SS	31	Sergio Brown (6-2, 205, Sr.)
	28	Kyle McCarthy (6-0, 203, Sr.)
FS	22	Harrison Smith (6-2, 212, Jr.)
	15	Dan McCarthy (6-2, 200, So.)

SPECIALISTS

K	14	Brandon Walker (6-3, 202, Jr.)
	39	Ryan Burkhart (5-11, 190, Sr.)
P	43	Eric Maust (6-2, 177, Sr.)
	39	Ryan Burkhart (5-11, 190, Sr.)

Sporting News All-American

2008 TEAM STATS

TEAM STATISTICS	ND	OPP
SCORING	321	288
Points Per Game	24.7	22.2
FIRST DOWNS	250	232
Rushing	91	93
Passing	133	122
Penalty	26	17
RUSHING YARDAGE	1426	1744
Yards gained rushing	1764	2058
Yards lost rushing	338	314
Rushing Attempts	436	430
Average Per Rush	3.3	4.1
Average Per Game	109.7	134.2
TDs Rushing	11	18
PASSING YARDAGE	3190	2544
Att-Comp-Int	447-271-17	422-228-14
Average Per Pass	7.1	6.0
Average Per Catch	11.8	11.2
Average Per Game	245.4	195.7
TDs Passing	25	15
TOTAL OFFENSE	4616	4288
Total Plays	883	852
Average Per Play	5.2	5.0
Average Per Game	355.1	329.8
KICK RETURNS: #-YDS	52-1121	59-972
PUNT RETURNS: #-YDS	26-232	29-175
INT RETURNS: #-YDS	14-236	17-134

TEAM STATISTICS	ND	OPP
KICK RETURN AVG.	21.6	16.5
PUNT RETURN AVG.	8.9	6.0
INT RETURN AVG.	16.9	7.9
FUMBLES-LOST	23-11	17-11
PENALTIES-YARDS	70-649	95-834
Average Per Game	49.9	64.2
PUNTS-YARDS	56-2218	75-2794
Average Per Punt	39.6	37.3
Net punt average	35.1	33.4
TIME OF POSS./GAME	31:17	28:43
3RD-DOWN CONV.	63/180	57/174
3rd-Down Pct.	35%	33%
4TH-DOWN CONV.	11/30	5/13
4th-Down Pct.	37%	38%
SACKS BY-YARDS	26-195	22-185
MISC YARDS	0	0
TDS SCORED	40	35
FG-ATTEMPTS	14-24	15-21
PAT-ATTEMPTS	39-40	33-34
ATTENDANCE	484770	388210
Games/Avg Per Game	6/80795	6/64702
Neutral Site Games		1/70932

SCORE BY QTRS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
Notre Dame	62	103	90	50	9	321
Opponent	36	89	57	94	12	288

INDEPENDENT

NAVY
MIDSHIPMEN

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@OHIO STATE	
S.12	Louisiana Tech	
S.19	@PITTSBURGH	21-42
S.26	Western Kentucky	
0.3	Air Force	33-27
0.10	@RICE	
0.17	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	34-7
0.24	Wake Forest	24-17
0.31	Temple	33-27 (OT)
N.7	@NOTRE DAME	21-27
N.14	Delaware	
N.28	@HAWAII	

GAME TO WATCH

D.12 Army* 34-0

This one's a no-brainer. Seasons are won or lost with the outcome of this rivalry.

**at Philadephia*

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 8-5
(lost to Wake Forest in the EagleBank Bowl, 29-19)

Coach: Ken Niumatalolo
2nd year (8-6)
Career record: 8-6
Offensive coordinator:
Ivin Jasper (2nd year)
Defensive coordinator:
Buddy Green (8th season)

Stadium: Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium (34,000)
Tickets: 800-US4-NAVY
Site: Annapolis, Md.
Official athletic Web site:
www.navysports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	4	Ricky Dobbs (6-1, 194, Jr.)
SB	28	Marcus Curry (5-11, 207, So.)
SB	33	Bobby Doyle (5-11, 195, Sr.)
FB	39	Alex Teich (6-0,200, So.)
LOT	61	Jeff Battipaglia (6-4, 260, Jr.)
LOG	79	Osei Asante (6-1, 264, Sr.)
C	75	Brady DeMell (6-3, 295, So.)
ROG	66	Curtis Bass (6-1, 266, Sr.)
ROT	70	Matt Molloy (6-3, 280, Jr.)
WR	85	Mario Washington (5-9, 184, Jr.)
WR	80	Mike Schupp (5-10, 180, Jr.)

DEFENSE

LDE	98	Jabaree Tuani (6-1, 242, So.)
NT	99	Nate Frazier (6-3, 287, Sr.)
RDE	59	Matt Nechak (6-4, 249, Sr.)
LOLB	34	Clint Sovie (5-10, 210, Sr.)
LILB	50	Tony Haberer (6-1, 225, Sr.)
RILB	51	Ross Pospisil (6-0, 223, Sr.)
ROLB	55	Travis Sudderth (6-2, 224, Jr.)
LCB	1	Blake Carter (5-11, 185, Sr.)
RCB	15	Kevin Edwards (6-2, 173, Jr.)
FS	37	Kwesi Mitchell (5-10, 191, So.)
RVR	8	Wyatt Middleton (6-0, 192, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	45	Jon Teague (6-3, 195, So.)
P	35	Kyle Delahooke (6-1, 202, Jr.)

What can Ken Niumatalolo do for an encore?

He began his tenure as football coach at the Naval Academy last season with an 8-5 record, a sixth straight Commander-in-Chief's Trophy and a bowl appearance.

So it's safe to say expectations are high in Annapolis.

Shouldering much of the hype will be Ricky Dobbs. The junior quarterback showed signs of greatness last season, starting four games for the injured Kaipo-Noa Kaheaku-Enhada.

If Navy's triple-option attack is going to continue producing one of the top rushing offenses in the country, sophomore Marcus Curry and senior Bobby Doyle will have to earn their stripes at slotback. Paving the way for their production will be fullback Alex Teich.

"[Curry] is the type of slot back we are looking for if we could build the perfect slot—he is a guy that can do everything," Niumatalolo says. "He has the size to block and the speed to run and catch the ball. The learning curve of transferring everything from the classroom to the field still remains to be seen with him."

If Dobbs does throw, he'll have Mario Washington and Mike Schupp as targets.

Strength, in terms of the Navy defense, will come from the front seven. And if there's a face of the Midshipmen defense, it's that of linebacker Ross Pospisil. The senior made 106 tackles last season. Fellow senior Clint Sovie has been moved from inside linebacker to outside to allow him to use his speed. Ends Matt Nechak and Jabaree Tuani, and nose guard Nate Frazier make up the nucleus of the front line.

In the secondary, rover Wyatt Middleton has experience, and safety Kwesi Mitchell shot up the depth chart in spring practices.

BOWL PROJECTION
» EAGLEBANK BOWL

LOWER TIER BOWL

INDEPENDENT

ARMY
BLACK KNIGHTS

SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	'08 RESULT
S.5	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	17-13
S.12	Duke	
S.19	Ball State	
S.26	@IOWA STATE	
0.3	Tulane	44-13
0.10	Vanderbilt	
0.17	@TEMPLE	7-35
0.23	Rutgers	3-30
N.7	@AIR FORCE	7-16
N.14	Virginia Military	
N.21	@NORTH TEXAS	

GAME TO WATCH

D.12 Navy* 0-34

After seven straight losses to the Midshipmen, Army needs to buck the trend.

**at Philadephia*

QUICK HITS

2008 record: 3-9

Coach: Rich Ellerson, 1st year
Offensive coordinator:
Ian Shields (1st year)
Defensive coordinators:
Payam Saadat (1st year)
Chris Smeland (1st year)

Stadium: Michie Stadium (40,000)
Tickets: 877-TIX-ARMY
Site: West Point, N.Y.
Official athletic Web site:
www.goarmysports.com

PROJECTED STARTERS

OFFENSE

QB	10	Chip Bowden (6-0, 211, Jr.)
FB	36	CeDarius Williams (5-11, 203, So.)
SB	5	Patrick Mealy (5-8, 203, Jr.)
SB	26	Ian Smith (5-8, 180, Sr.)
LOT	68	Mike McDermott (6-7, 248, So.)
LOG	72	Mikel Weich (6-3, 277, Jr.)
C	57	Zachary Peterson (6-1, 267, Jr.)
ROG	54	Seth Reed (6-1, 266, Jr.)
ROT	67	Jason Johnson (6-3, 257, Sr.)
WR	82	Ali Villanueva (6-10, 283, Sr.)
WR	7	Damion Hunter (5-10, 166, Sr.)

DEFENSE

QCK	44	Josh McNary (6-1, 225, Jr.)
LDT	92	Victor Ugenyi (6-3, 262, Sr.)
RDT	93	Mike Gann (6-2, 270, Jr.)
DE	96	Marcus Hilton (6-0, 247, Jr.)
WHP	42	Andrew Rodriguez (6-3, 210, So.)
MKE	50	Stephen Anderson (5-10, 219, Jr.)
RVR	9	Steve Erzinger (6-1, 215, So.)
FC	1	Mario Hill (6-0, 175, Sr.)
SAM	21	Desmond Lamb (6-2, 193, Jr.)
FS	6	Donovan Travis (6-1, 187, Jr.)
BC	8	Richard King (5-11, 190, Jr.)

SPECIALISTS

K	19	Matthew Campbell (5-10, 181, Jr.)
P	18	Jonathan Bulls (6-1, 217, Jr.)

Twelve straight losing seasons was enough for the Army brass. Salvaging the football program became a priority last December.

Normally a conservative bunch, the Army commanders made a bold statement by turning over the keys to the program to Rich Ellerson, a veteran coach who made a name for himself as an innovator for eight seasons at Cal Poly.

Ellerson's initial moves have been to install a triple-option offense and defensive version of the University of Arizona's "Desert Swarm" from two decades ago.

The Black Knights' new defense is predicated on speed and the ability to hit.

A double-eagle flex formation suits the personnel of an academy team because it is topheavy with linebackers and defensive backs.

Guys like rover Steve Erzinger, safety Donovan Travis and linemen Marcus Hilton and Victor Ugenyi are good fits for the new defense.

Ellerson brought the triple-option offense and coordinator Ian Shields with him from Cal Poly.

"[The passing game is] what separates how we run our spread option from other teams in the country," Shields says.

Last year, Cal Poly was second in the Football Championship Subdivision in passing efficiency.

"The No. 1 statistic in NCAA football that correlated with winning football games was passing efficiency," Shields says. "So [pass efficiency's] a big thing."

Chip Bowden returns to quarterback with experience, as does Carson Williams. Freshmen Max Jenkins and Jimmy Reitter provide talent for the triple-option.

Ian Smith and Patrick Mealy are running backs with experience, while seniors Ali Villanueva and Damion Hunter are the leading receivers coming back.

FCS OVERVIEW

Spiders have what it takes to get through a tangled FCS web and repeat as national champs

By Matt McKenzie, *Sporting News*

Richmond went into the 2008 Football Championship Subdivision playoffs with an at-large bid after finishing third in the always-tough Colonial Athletic Association. The Spiders were expected to win only one game, as the second-round matchup would pit them against then three-time defending champion Appalachian State in Kidd Brewer Stadium—where it's almost impossible to come away with a road victory.

But coach Mike London and the Spiders weren't ready to step aside.

After a shocking upset of the Mountaineers (the No. 2 seed in the playoffs), Richmond went on to defeat Northern Iowa (No. 3) at the UNI Dome, another tough road venue, and capped the run with a 24-7 win over Montana (No. 4) for the school's first national championship.

Not a bad first year for London, who was a defensive assistant at Virginia and played defensive back for the Spiders from 1979-83.

"That's probably a big understatement," says London, laughing. "It's kind of one of those closet memories that you have and want to keep. I wanted to prove that I belonged, that I can coach. My job was to get the team ready and put the plan and philosophy in place.

"As we went along the way, we never lost sight this was a playoff-caliber team. And it turned out to be a storybook season."

With 16 starters returning, the Spiders won't be sneaking up on anyone this year. London is now faced with the challenge of becoming just the fourth school in history to repeat as back-to-back FCS champion.

"Every year, you have to find the identity of your team," he says. "You have two choices: Do better or give up. There's no No. 3. That's what I try to instill in the players. And now that they've gotten a taste of what a championship is like and how it feels to be there, they know what it takes to get back."

When London was hired at Richmond, he wanted to bring in a "new year, new culture [and] new vibe." And it didn't take long for his teachings to sink in with the players. Returning senior quarterback Eric Ward set a single-season school record last year by completing 64.1 percent of his passes, while the Spiders collected a program-best 29 interceptions on the other side of the ball.

Right behind Richmond is the team it defeated in the quarterfinals, Appalachian State. Prior to the Spiders' 33-13 victory, London says he knew what the team was up against.

"They were Apollo Creed and we were Rocky Balboa," he says. "I said, 'We've got to run to the middle of the ring and start throwing punches.' What happens when you come out of

Eric Ward, Richmond

TOP 25

#1	Richmond
2	Appalachian State
3	Villanova
4	Northern Iowa
5	Montana
6	Southern Illinois
7	Weber State
8	New Hampshire
9	Elon
10	James Madison
11	Central Arkansas
12	William & Mary
13	Eastern Washington
14	Maine
15	Cal Poly
16	Massachusetts
17	Montana State
18	Wofford
19	McNeese State
20	Georgia Southern
21	Northern Arizona
22	Colgate
23	Samford
24	Jacksonville State
25	South Carolina State

MARVIN GENTRY / US PRESSWIRE; OPPOSITE PAGE (L TO R): JEREMY BREVARD / ICON SMI; COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS; MARK CAMPBELL / UD ATHLETICS MEDIA RELATIONS

QUICK HITS

1 Beginning in 2010, the current 16-team FCS playoff field will expand to 20 teams. The NCAA Board of Directors approved the move last April and, as part of the expansion, the Big South and Northeast conferences will receive automatic bids.

Next year, the FCS postseason will have 10 automatic bids (Big Sky, Big South, Colonial, Gateway, MEAC, NEC, Ohio Valley, Patriot, Southern and Southland) and 10 at-large bids rather than the current field of eight automatic and eight at-large invitations. Another new wrinkle under the new format: Eight teams will be seeded instead of the current four.

2 Appalachian State shocked the football world with its upset over Michigan two years ago, and was one of eight FCS teams to beat an FBS squad (North Dakota State won twice, at Central Michigan and Minnesota). Last year? Not so much. There were only two FCS-over-FBS victories, as Cal Poly took down San Diego State 29-27 and New Hampshire defeated Army 28-10. Here are four games in 2009 that are potential FCS upsets:

› **North Dakota State at Iowa State:** The Bison won't be awed by playing an FBS team, with two such wins already under their belt (Central Michigan and Minnesota in 2007). Iowa State is rebuilding under first-year coach Paul Rhoads, who may find his Cyclones' season debut disastrous.

› **Appalachian State at East Carolina:** Like NDSU, Appalachian State is no stranger to beating an FBS team. The Mountaineers return nearly every key component from last year, and ASU fans will be traveling in bunches on the in-state trip to Greenville.

› **Delaware at Navy:** One of the most-talked-about FCS transfers this year is former Penn State quarterback Pat Devlin, who was one of the top five prep quarterbacks in 2006, according to *Rivals.com*. Delaware defeated Navy two seasons ago behind Joe Flacco's (another high-profile FBS-to-FCS transfer) four touchdown passes, and Devlin could be the key to another upset.

› **Richmond at Duke:** The defending FCS national champion will begin its quest for back-to-back titles against a program that has long struggled, as the Blue Devils have just 14 wins over the last nine seasons. In a role reversal, Spiders coach Mike London says the team "isn't looking past Duke" while referring to Richmond's slate in the Colonial, arguably the toughest FCS conference.

3 The FCS independents lost two members in Presbyterian (Big South) and Marist (Pioneer), while a third, Iona, dropped football last November. Old Dominion will join the ranks this season for two years before officially moving to the Colonial, while Bryant, North Carolina Central and Savannah State are the only holdovers from last year. Bryant will become a full member of the NEC in 2012 while N.C. Central and Savannah State applied for admission to the MEAC earlier this year, but no decision had been made on those applications as of press time.

TOP PLAYERS

OFFENSE

Armanti Edwards, QB
Appalachian State

DEFENSE

Larry Hart, DE
Central Arkansas

NEWCOMER

Pat Devlin, QB
Delaware

that [is] you realize you can play with anyone. We only had to prove it to ourselves. There were a lot of people who doubted us. That made the fact we went into one of the hardest places to play and came out and won that much better."

Mountaineers coach Jerry Moore says his team, which had six turnovers in that contest, simply "didn't play as well as we usually did."

"But you can't go stick your head in the sand because of one game," Moore says. "You've got to be realistic of why you didn't play well and move on. We've had 29 surgeries since Aug. 1, 2008—that's darn near half our players. So, yeah, there was a lot of disappointment last year, and we were somewhat shocked. But you can't just assume things; you've got to make things happen."

Increasing the level of play for ASU the last three years has been quarterback Armanti Edwards, the 2008 Walter Payton Award winner (given to the top offensive FCS player) and the leading candidate for the honor this year. The senior is one of those players who went under the knife (Edwards had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee), but is expected back once the season starts.

"He's such a competitor that you have to think he's just going to explode during his senior year," Moore says of Edwards. "His work ethic, conditioning … all the little things great players like him do make me look forward to a great year from him."

As for other teams ready to challenge Richmond for the top spot, the Spiders need to look no further than their own conference. The Colonial boasts seven Top 25 teams on our preseason list, including four (Richmond, Villanova, New Hampshire and James Madison) in the top 10.

"We now have four national champions in our conference," London says. "North to south, good gracious, you have to bring your 'A' game and play at a high level all the time.

"I just tell the players, 'All that matters is what you do between those white lines.' That was the message last year and will continue to be. We've got a lot to prove to ourselves and others that last year wasn't a fluke."

SportingNews FCS ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

QB	Armanti Edwards (6-0, 200, Sr.) Appalachian State
RB	Trevyn Smith (5-9, 210, Sr.) Weber State
RB	Will Ford (5-11, 185, Sr.) South Carolina State
OL	Matthew McCracken (6-4, 291, r-Sr.) Richmond
OL	James Williams (6-5, 295, Sr.) Harvard
OL	Dorian Brooks (6-3, 285, r-Sr.) James Madison
OL	Jeff Hansen (6-4, 290, r-Sr.) Montana State
OL	Austin Steichen (6-3, 300, r-Sr.) Northern Iowa
WR	Andre Roberts (5-11, 170, Sr.) Citadel
WR	Terrell Hudgins (6-3, 235, Sr.) Elon
TE	Scott Sicko (6-3, 230, Sr.) New Hampshire
K	Andrew Samson (6-1, 180, Jr.) Penn
RS	LeRoy Vann (5-9, 182, Sr.) Florida A&M

DEFENSE

DL	Larry Hart (6-1, 242, Sr.) Central Arkansas
DL	James Ruffin (6-4, 265, r-Sr.) Northern Iowa
DL	Austen Lane (6-6, 250, Sr.) Murray State
DL	Tim Knicky (6-4, 235, Sr.) Stephen F. Austin
LB	Jacque Roman (6-1, 240, Sr.) Appalachian State
LB	Jeffrey Williams (6-0, 221, Jr.) Gardner-Webb
LB	Osayi Osunde (6-1, 235, Sr.) Villanova
LB	Scott Lewis (5-11, 200, Jr.) St. Francis (Pa.)
DB	Mark LeGree (6-0, 200, Jr.) Appalachian State
DB	Tommy Connors (6-0, 205, Sr.) SE Louisiana
DB	Carnell Clark (6-2, 183, Sr.) Jacksonville State
DB	Charles Graves (6-0, 195, Sr.) Delaware
P	Doug Spada (6-1, 190, Sr.) SE Missouri State

BIG SKY

PREDICTIONS

1. Montana
2. Weber State
3. Eastern Washington
4. Montana State
5. Northern Arizona
6. Portland State
7. Northern Colorado
8. Sacramento State
9. Idaho State

TOP PLAYERS

Offense Cameron Higgins, *QB, Weber State*

Defense Dane Fletcher, *DE, Montana State*

Newcomer Brandyn Reed, *WR, Sacramento State*

GAME TO WATCH

10/31/09
Weber State at Montana

After last year's epic battles between the Grizzlies and the Wildcats, this Halloween Day matchup will likely decide who emerges as the Big Sky champion.

Grizzlies, Wildcats will be clawing for top of Sky

By Mike Sorensen
The (Salt Lake City) Deseret News

When Weber State knocked off perennial league champion Montana early in the 2008 season, it appeared there might be a new king in the Big Sky Conference.

But that notion didn't last long. The two schools tied for the regular-season championship at 7-1 and met in the quarterfinals of the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs, where Montana got revenge with a 24-13 victory. Eventually, the Grizzlies progressed to the FCS championship game, losing to Richmond 24-7.

This year looks like another battle between the Grizzlies and the Wildcats, who should both advance to the FCS postseason again.

Nipping at the heels of Weber State and Montana is Eastern Washington. With several top players back, the Eagles could also contend for the title. However, a national championship run may be impossible. In February, the university was placed on three years of probation, including a postseason ban for 2009, which the school is appealing. The program had a series of secondary rule violations from 2003-07 under former Eagles coach Paul Wulff (now head coach at Washington State), which led to a major infractions case.

Every other team in the league looks improved, but none are likely to challenge for the Big Sky crown.

Montana (14-2 overall, 7-1 Big Sky) lost several key players from last year's national runner-up team, including quarterback Cole Bergquist and All-America safety Colt Anderson. But with the Grizzlies, it's never a matter of rebuilding, just reloading. Montana returns running back Chase Reynolds (1,583 rushing yards, 22 TDs) and wide receiver Marc Mariani (69 catches, 1,308 yards, 15 TDs). Junior Andrew Selle is the leading candidate at quarterback.

Defensively, coach Bobby Hauck will count on end Jace Palmer, linebacker Shawn Lebsock, safety Shann Schillinger and cornerback Trumaine Johnson.

Under coach Ron McBride, **Weber State** (10-3, 7-1) produced one of its finest seasons in school history in 2008. Only a loss to Eastern Washington kept the Wildcats from an unbeaten league record. Weber State returns eight starters from an offense that averaged a league-best 35.2 points and 455.3 yards per game. Leading the way are quarterback Cameron Higgins (4,477 passing yards, 36 TDs) and running back Trevyn Smith (1,585 yards, 21 TDs).

The Wildcats lost some high-profile players on defense, but return a pair of first-team all-conference picks in end Kevin Linehan and safety Beau Hadley.

Hailed as a conference title contender at the start of last season, **Eastern Washington** (6-5, 5-3) struggled before closing with a three-game winning streak. The Eagles return 15 starters, including quarterback Matt Nichols, the 2007 Big Sky Offensive MVP. Wide receivers Aaron Boyce, Brynsen Brown and Tony Davis, who combined for 166 catches, 2,229 yards and 17 touchdowns in 2008, all return.

Twin brothers Matt and Zach Johnson (179 tackles combined) will lead the Eagles' defense.

Montana State (7-5, 5-3) returns seven starters from the league's top defensive team, led by end Dane Fletcher, who registered 14.5 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks before injuring his knee. Safety Kevin Retoriano (58 tackles, 3 INTs) earned first-team all-league honors.

On offense, Cody Kempt is the leading quarterback candidate after playing seven games last season. Guard Jeff Hansen was second-team All-Big Sky and also earned honorable mention All-America honors.

Northern Arizona (6-5, 4-4) started hot last year, going 4-0 in league play before losing its last four games. The Lumberjacks led the nation in rushing defense (59.8 ypg) and sacks (42).

Junior Michael Herrick, who transferred from Ole Miss last year, is expected to take over at quarterback after passing for 1,043 yards as the backup for NAU in '08.

Portland State (4-7, 3-5) returns 16 starters, including eight on offense. Under former NFL head coach Jerry Glanville, the Vikings have led the nation in passing offense each of the last two seasons, averaging 372.2 yards per game in 2008. Quarterback Drew Hubel is back with a load of receivers, including Aaron Woods, who was sixth in the nation in all-purpose yards per game (178.9) last season, and Mario D'Ambrosio, who led the team with 76 catches.

Entering its fourth season in the Big Sky, **Northern Colorado** (1-10, 1-7) is ready to start winning. Although the Bears won just one game last year, they showed signs of competitiveness.

Quarterback Bryan Waggener (2,546 yards, 14 TDs), a transfer from Florida, leads a group of 17 returning starters.

Sacramento State (6-6, 3-5) hit the .500 mark in '08, but the Hornets will miss leading rusher Bryan Hilliard, who is out for the year recovering from shoulder surgery. Jason Smith (16 TDs, 6 INTs) returns at quarterback and has a new target in junior-college transfer Brandyn Reed, who had 61 catches for 1,195 yards and 16 TDs at Santa Rosa (Calif.) Junior College last season.

The defense is led by cornerback Deionte Gordon, who picked off four passes as a freshman in 2008.

Idaho State (1-11, 1-7) returns 14 starters from last year, which may not mean much since the Bengals tied for last in the Big Sky. Quarterback Russell Hill (2,634 passing yards, 14 TDs) returns, along with tailback Clint Knickrehm (456 rushing yards).

BIG SOUTH

To gain a playoff bid, Big South teams need perfection on field

By Chris Lang
The (Lynchburg, Va.) News & Advance

When it comes to the Football Championship Subdivision postseason, there is no margin for error in the Big South. Liberty coach Danny Rocco got a painful reminder of that in November when his conference champion Flames were left out of the 16-team playoff field despite winning 10 games for the first time in school history.

An early-November loss at Presbyterian, which joins the Big South this season, doomed the Flames' chances for playoff inclusion despite not losing a conference game since falling at Coastal Carolina in October 2006.

Until the Big South gains an automatic bid to the expanded 20-team FCS playoffs in 2010, the conference champion better be perfect if it wants a spot in the field.

Rocco faces his first retooling job at **Liberty** (10-2 overall, 5-0 Big South) since 2006, as he must replace tailback Rashad Jennings, three-year starting quarterback Brock Smith, top receivers Dominic Bolden and Jonathan Crawford, four-year starting center Mike Godsil and three of four regulars in the secondary. Rocco also had to rework his staff thanks to the loss of offensive coordinator Scott Wachenheim (Washington Redskins) and defensive line coach/special teams coordinator Chad Wilt (Virginia).

But there were signs last year that Liberty could handle such big losses. Unheralded players such as linebackers Chad Brown and Jamal Giddens and tailback B.J. Hayes came from nowhere to be key contributors. Plus, Liberty adds transfers from Football Bowl Subdivision schools. Freddie Brown (South Carolina) and Ervin Garner (Virginia Tech) will compete at receiver. Tommy Beecher (South Carolina) will join the hunt for the starting quarterback spot with teammates Spencer Landis and Mike Brown.

Coastal Carolina (6-6, 1-4) remains the only Big South team ever to earn an at-large playoff bid. But that 2006 season is a distant memory for a team that needed to rally at Gardner-Webb to avoid a winless conference record in '08. In the offseason, coach David Bennett promoted seven-year quarterbacks coach Kevin Brown to offensive coordinator with hopes of adding power to Coastal's run game. The Chanticleers will need a healthy Eric O'Neal, who missed two games with a high ankle sprain last season, for that to happen.

Coastal should be strong in the secondary, as sophomores Josh Norman and Marcus Lott saw a lot of playing time as freshmen.

Mario Brown, the 2008 preseason Big South Defensive Player of the Year, missed most of last season with an injury, but returns this year to anchor the defense for **Gardner-Webb** (5-6, 2-3). While Brown was out in 2008, linebacker Jeffrey Williams picked up the slack, being named Big South Defensive Player of the Year. Cornerback Cedric McGowan returns, as does second-team All-Big South honorees Marty Patterson (linebacker) and Jordan Woods (end).

Senior Stan Doolittle figures to start at quarterback after splitting time with graduated Devin Campbell the last two years. However, Doolittle threw more interceptions (6) than touchdowns (4) in '08.

Stony Brook (5-6, 3-2) found success in its first year in the conference, but the Seawolves struggled defensively last season. As a result, coach Chuck Priore scrapped the 3-4 defense in favor of the 4-3 scheme. Stony Brook will build around its talented linebacker corps, which includes the top two tacklers from 2008, Tyler Santucci and Stephen Schwicke.

Offensively, the Seawolves have the league's best backfield in Conte Cuttino and Edwin Gowins, who was the Big South Freshman of the Year in '08. Dayne Hoffman started at quarterback last season, but will compete with Dan Sweeney for the job this fall.

VMI (4-7, 1-4) returns 10 starters on offense and nine on defense, and could be a dark horse in the conference race. But the team needs to improve on defense. The Keydets allowed 438.3 yards per game and gave up 40 or more points four times in '08.

The FCS' top running game returns intact. All five starting offensive linemen are back, as is slotback Tim Maypray and running back Howard Abegesah. Maypray battled concussions and other injuries last season but still rushed for 1,266 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Charleston Southern (7-5, 3-2) has been looking for stability at quarterback since Collin Drafts led the program to a share of the Big South title in 2005. The Buccaneers hope one of two junior-college transfers—A.J. Toscano or Andrew Trudnowski—will take the helm. Toscano saw limited time in '08, while Trudnowski set every passing record at Los Angeles (Calif.) Harbor College during his two years there. Even with a good quarterback, the Bucs must rebuild their line. Also, receiver is a weak spot, as only Gerald Stevenson comes back.

There's promise on defense as end Joel Walton, a transfer from Arizona Western College, should boost CSU's front four.

Presbyterian (4-8), which was an FCS independent last year, accomplished a rare feat in the Big South by beating Liberty. Now, new coach Harold Nichols, who has spent time as an assistant at Rhode Island and Bucknell, replaces Bobby Bentley. Returning is quarterback Tim Webb, whose last two seasons ended early due to injuries. Also back is sophomore Brandon Miley.

Nichols expects big things on defense from cornerback Justin Bethel and end Derren Evans. The sophomore pair are building toward the 2011 season, when the Blue Hose will be eligible for the league championship and an FCS playoff berth.

PREDICTIONS

1. Liberty
2. Coastal Carolina
3. Gardner-Webb
4. Stony Brook
5. VMI
6. Charleston Southern
7. Presbyterian

GAME TO WATCH

10/17/09
Coastal Carolina at Liberty

The Chanticleers are eager to return the Big South championship trophy to Conway, S.C., but they'll have to beat Liberty first. The Flames have won the last two meetings between the teams.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense Tim Maypray, *SB, VMI*
Defense Mario Brown, *LB, Gardner-Webb*
Newcomer Joel Walton, *DE, Charleston Southern*

FCS

COLONIAL

PREDICTIONS

NORTH

1 New Hampshire
2 Maine
3 Massachusetts
4 Hofstra
5 Rhode Island
6 Northeastern

SOUTH

1 Richmond
2 Villanova
3 James Madison
4 William & Mary
5 Delaware
6 Towson

TOP PLAYERS

Offense R.J. Toman, *QB, New Hampshire*
Defense Osayi Osunde, *LB, Villanova*
Newcomer Pat Devlin, *QB, Delaware*

CAA FOOTBALL

GAME TO WATCH

10/10/09
Richmond @ James Madison

In last season's thriller, James Madison won 38-31 in the final seconds of the game with a punt return by Scotty McGee. The defending national FCS champs will be seeking revenge, but McGee is back and JMU has the best home-field advantage in the league.

FCS

Colonial stacked with bevy of FCS title contenders

By John O'Connor
Richmond Times-Dispatch

University of Richmond coach Mike London refers to the Colonial Athletic Association as the Southeastern Conference of the Football Championship Subdivision.

London's Spiders won the 2008 FCS title after finishing third in the six-team CAA South Division, a reflection of the 12-team league's quality. From 1998-2008, four CAA programs captured national championships (Massachusetts in '98, Delaware in '03, James Madison in '04 and Richmond last season).

"If you're at the top of the CAA, you're at the top of the nation," Towson athletic director Mike Hermann says.

Five CAA squads advanced to the 16-team playoffs in 2007 and, again, five went in '08. Prior to those achievements, no conference had ever sent more than four teams to the postseason in one year.

Four different CAA teams have played in the national championship game in five of the last six years. In the final 2008 FCS poll, six Colonial teams ranked in the top 20.

London says the competition within the CAA is the survival of the fittest.

"On any Saturday, you've got to be at your best," he says.

Richmond returns 18 of 24 starters (including kickers), but the Spiders aren't the favorites to win the South. The competitive division also features JMU, which didn't lose a 2008 regular-season game to an FCS member; a Delaware team featuring 24 players with experience as starters; a veteran Villanova outfit coming off a 10-3 season; and William & Mary, which went 7-4 and returns most of its difference-makers.

In the North Division, playoff regular New Hampshire will battle for the top with a resurgent Maine squad.

NORTH DIVISION

The streak is expected to go on for defending North Division champion **New Hampshire** (10-3 overall, 6-2 CAA), which has advanced to the FCS playoffs five straight seasons and beaten an Football Bowl Subdivison member in four of the last five years.

Senior tight end Scott Sicko was named a 2008 FCS All-American after averaging 13.6 yards per catch and 55.0 per game. Junior R.J. Toman is back at quarterback after passing for a league-high 28 touchdowns in the eclectic offense of coach Sean McDonnell.

Senior running back Chad Kackert is a threat as a runner and receiver in a Wildcats setup that uses multiple formations and motions. New Hampshire averaged 35.6 points and 404.2 offensive yards a game in reaching the FCS quarterfinals again in '08.

Look for UNH to improve defensively with all four linemen back, led by 2008 CAA co-Defensive Rookie of the Year Brian McNally, a pass-rushing force. Four of five secondary starters also return as the Wildcats again look to be one of the Colonial's best at forcing turnovers and converting them to points. Twice last season UNH scored on 100-yard interception returns.

Maine (8-5, 5-3) coach Jack Cosgrove believes in running the football, and the Black Bears return three of their top four backs, including 6-2, 232-pound fullback Jared Turcotte (625 rushing yards), and three starting offensive linemen.

Senior quarterback Michael Brusko can also run the ball effectively. He took over as Maine's starter midway through last season and helped the Black Bears win six straight on the way to the FCS playoffs. Offensive diversity could help Maine reach the postseason after it finished 11th out of 12 CAA teams in pass offense and 10th in third-down conversions last year.

With a defense that needs a big-play guy after graduating 2008 CAA Defensive Player of the Year Jovan Belcher, senior linebacker Mark Masterson should nicely fill the shoes with his own play-making abilities.

In 1998, **Massachusetts** (7-5, 4-4) started a junior-college quarterback from California, Todd Bankhead, and the Minutemen won that season's national championship. Can history repeat that feat?

Kyle Havens, a 6-3 quarterback from Diablo Valley College, joins UMass this season to fortify the operation of first-year coach Kevin Morris. Previously the program's offensive coordinator for the last five seasons, Morris takes over for Don Brown, who is now Maryland's defensive coordinator. With Morris as offensive coordinator, UMass won 30 of 40 league games.

Gone is Liam Coen, who holds most of the school's passing records. However, UMass returns All-CAA running back Tony Nelson, who gained 1,356 yards last season as a junior, and All-CAA wide receiver Victor Cruz. Jeremy Horne is another capable wideout.

Three of the front four on defense return along with well-regarded linebacker Josh Jennings. Defensive back Jeromy Miles leads a secondary that lost two outstanding cornerbacks in Sean Smalls and Courtney Robinson.

Hofstra's (4-8, 2-6) first goal is to stay healthy. The Pride lost a pair of quarterbacks and other regulars last season to injuries, many of them season-ending.

Junior-college quarterback Coy Glass hails from California and, assuming he wins the job, will have one of the CAA's best talents, junior Aaron Weaver, as a

top target. Weaver, who made 70 catches in 2008, also contributes as a running back and return man.

Freshman running back Brock Jackolski was good in spurts last season, averaging 23.8 yards per kickoff return. The Pride seeks defensive support for standout linebacker Luke Bonus, a 5-10, 205-pounder who averaged eight tackles a game last season.

Over three short winter months, Joe Trainer left **Rhode Island** (3-9, 1-7), and then came back.

Trainer relinquished his post as the Rams' defensive coordinator to accept a job on the Bowling Green staff, but returned to fill the head-coaching hole left by Darren Rizzi, who unexpectedly departed to become an assistant with the Miami Dolphins after just one season with the Rams.

Rhode Island will try to overcome its instability and 1-7 Colonial record from 2008 with productive running backs Joe Casey (who returns after breaking his leg last year) and Jimmy Hughes, as well as versatile Brandon Johnson-Farrell, an accomplished wide receiver and kick returner.

Still, URI has work to do on the offensive line after allowing a league-high 26 sacks in 2008.

On defense, the young Rams surrendered an average of 32 points last season, but will toughen up behind linebacker Matt Hansen.

A more agreeable schedule gives **Northeastern** hope. A beat-up Huskies team went 2-10 (1-7 CAA) last year while playing a pair of FBS opponents (Ball State and Syracuse) and seven road games. With 13 starters back, Northeastern will leave New England only once this season, traveling to face Youngstown State.

Coach Rocky Hager will rely on a senior-laden defense led by lineman Jason Vega and linebacker Phil Higgins.

Offensively, the Huskies seek a new quarterback, but the pass-catching options are good with 6-3 senior Tony Lott, speedy junior Greg Abelli and 6-6, 253-pound junior tight end Conor Gilmartin-Donohue. Northeastern will look to replace running back Alex Broomfield, one of the finest players in school history (3,541 all-purpose yards).

SOUTH DIVISION

Richmond (13-3, 6-2) won the 2008 FCS title with a team made up mostly of sophomores and juniors, so don't expect much of a drop-off.

Quarterback Eric Ward is a four-year starter who knows game management. His stats aren't eye-catching, but the 6-3, 213-pounder finds ways to move the chains. The Spiders need a running back to work behind experienced blockers, and their defensive line will miss star ends Lawrence Sidbury and Sherman Logan, who helped Richmond hold opponents to an average of 15.6 points in 2008.

Big-play receptions will come from 6-3 junior Kevin Grayson, while his former high school teammate, junior Eric McBride, could be the league's top outside linebacker. But it was junior Justin Rogers who made seven interceptions in 2008—two went for touchdowns—and gave Richmond good field position with kickoff returns, so look for him to do the same this year.

Coach Mike London's staff lost a few members following the national championship, most notably defensive coordinator Russ Huesman, who left to be the head coach at Chattanooga. He was replaced by Vic Shealy, son of former Spiders coach Dal Shealy.

Scoring on **Villanova** (10-3, 7-1) won't be easy with Osayi Osunde and eight other returning defensive starters. Osunde, a senior born in Nigeria, leads a group of disruptive linebackers.

Preparing for the Wildcats' offense gets tricky because junior Matt Szczur jabs defenses as a runner, wide receiver and, occasionally, a thrower. Villanova will also keep defenses guessing with junior quarterback Chris Whitney, a tough athlete who has a knack for winning.

An offensive line with four returning starters gets a big push from 6-4, 325-pound junior tackle Ben Ijalana, but Villanova's defensive line must replace standout Greg Miller.

Four playoff appearances in the last five years show **James Madison** (12-2, 8-0) has things in order, so the loss of ultra-productive quarterback Rodney Landers (who totaled 6,255 yards of total offense the last two years) shouldn't debilitate the Dukes.

Thirteen starters are back to pick up the new quarterback, which will either be junior Drew Dudzik or redshirt freshman Justin Thorpe. James Madison's 2008 averages of 38.1 points and 401.4 yards a game may not be duplicated, but a solid defensive line featuring seniors Sam Daniels and Arthur Moats should keep the Dukes tough.

James Madison also needs to replace running back Eugene Holloman, but junior Griff Yancey has experience. Receivers Rockeed McCarter (6-3) and Bosco Williams (6-2) will give short cornerbacks fits.

If you're projecting a CAA surprise champ, look at **William & Mary** (7-4, 5-3). The Tribe made needed strides on defense last season and returns from that group three standouts: senior end and pass-rushing specialist Adrian Tracy, sophomore linebacker Jake Trantin and senior safety David Caldwell.

Coach Jimmye Laycock's teams have been among the league's top scorers, but this season's edition comes with a twist, as senior R.J. Archer starts his first year at quarterback after having been a solid W&M receiver.

But he'll have teammates backing him. As a true freshman in '08, Jonathan Grimes averaged 162.0 all-purpose yards and was named the league's Offensive Rookie of the Year. Rob Varno, a 6-5 tight end, and 6-2 wide receiver Chase Hill are both targets with good hands. The key to the Tribe's season will be the development of the offensive line.

Coming off a school-record eight losses, **Delaware** (4-8, 2-6) looks to regroup on offense, the root of last season's uncharacteristic struggle (17.5 ppg).

The defense is sound, with senior Matt Marcorelle (15 career sacks) expected to move to middle linebacker from defensive end. And Delaware may have the best secondary in the FCS, led by senior safety Charles Graves.

The Blue Hens hope Penn State transfer Pat Devlin, a junior, can ride to the rescue at quarterback, but they need a consistent ball carrier, which was missing last year. If Devlin, a highly rated recruit when he signed with the Nittany Lions, comes through, the Hens may elevate.

Homecoming came during the offseason at **Towson** (3-9, 1-7), where former Tigers wide receiver Rob Ambrose was named head coach.

Ambrose, who was previously a member of the Connecticut staff, will attempt to lift Towson from the bottom of the South Division without departed quarterback Sean Schaefer, who passed for 300 or more yards 15 times as a four-year starter. However, the Tigers do return Matt Castor, who rushed for 543 yards last year as a junior despite missing four games with injuries.

But Towson's primary challenge is defensive improvement after allowing a league-high 35.2 points per game last year.

GREAT WEST

PREDICTIONS

1. Cal Poly
2. UC Davis
3. North Dakota
4. South Dakota
5. Southern Utah

TOP PLAYERS

Offense » Greg Denham, *QB, UC Davis*
Defense » Asa Jackson, *CB, Cal Poly*
Newcomer » Brent Bettencourt, *DE, UC Davis*

GAME TO WATCH

11/7/09 »
Cal Poly @ UC Davis

These two California teams touted the only winning conference records last season and they look to be on top this year, too. This matchup will determine the league's best in 2009.

Mustangs have horsepower to win the West

By Steve Silverman
correspondent

Cal Poly dominated the Great West Conference in 2008 and should do the same in '09.

Granted, there will be changes but the Mustangs are too powerful and experienced to cede their top spot. Cal Poly will attempt to lead the Great West with a new man at the helm. Former coach Rich Ellerson was snatched away by Army after leading the Mustangs to an 8-3 season. Former Army assistant Tim Walsh will take over the reins. While there is still talent, Cal Poly will miss Great West Offensive Player of the Year Ramses Barden, who exhausted his eligibility.

Asa Jackson » Cal Poly

Cal Poly was undefeated in three conference games last year, while UC Davis also enjoyed a winning record (2-1). The Aggies were proficient on both sides of the ball but will have to make up for the loss of defensive tackle John Faletoese, the 2008 Great West Defensive Player of the Year. Faletoese finished the season with 5.5 sacks and 7.5 tackles for loss. However, the team still has dependable wide receiver Chris Carter, who caught 69 passes in '08.

Cal Poly (8-3 overall, 3-0 Great West) was dealt a blow at the end of the season when Ellerson left for Army. Walsh is charged with keeping the Mustangs on track and has plenty of material with which to work.

With Barden off to the pros and quarterback Jonathan Dally also moving on after finishing first nationally in passing efficiency (171.6), the Mustangs may not be as stable on offense. But junior Tony Smith saw action in three games at quarterback last year and will most likely get the call behind center.

Still, Cal Poly will be more dependent on their defense this season. The Mustangs appear to be loaded on that side of the ball and Walsh is likely to go into attack mode.

Senior outside linebacker Carlton Gillespie is coming off a solid season in which he had 36 tackles, 12 tackles for loss and eight sacks. He has the speed to come off the edge and cause havoc but also knows how to crash through the middle and make plays. Senior strong safety David Fullerton is a good hitter with a nose for the ball. He had 32 tackles and four interceptions a year ago. The biggest playmaker on the defense may be sophomore cornerback Asa Jackson, who had 42 tackles, two interceptions and 12 passes defended in 2008.

UC Davis (5-7, 2-1) was a Jekyll-and-Hyde team last year as the Aggies won five of their six home games but lost all six road contests. The team should be more consistent this year in its attempt to dethrone Cal Poly. The Aggies bring back junior quarterback Greg Denham, who threw for 27 touchdowns in 2008.

Denham's top target is Carter, who recorded 768 receiving yards and five touchdowns last year. Carter can leap and also make the tough catch in traffic. Junior tight end Dean Rogers could play a key role in the offense after catching 13 passes for 178 yards in 2008. While Rogers didn't catch a touchdown pass, he did rush for three, showing his versatility.

The offensive line is anchored by senior center Tommy Hernandez, who joined Carter and Rogers on the All-Great West team in '08.

North Dakota (6-4, 1-2) beat archrival South Dakota to earn its only conference win last season. The Fighting Sioux will be solid on offense this season thanks to the rushing of Josh Murray. The junior running back ran for a league-high 1,146 yards with 12 touchdowns last year and is a versatile player who can go inside or outside. Senior linebacker Andrew Miller is the best UND defenders after recording 36 tackles last season. Keep an eye on junior defensive lineman Ty Boyle, who had 21 tackles and seven quarterback hurries a year ago.

South Dakota (6-5, 1-2) put a winning season on the board in its first year of Division I competition. The Coyotes finished with a 6-5 record and beat Southern Utah for their only conference win. Ed Meierkort may be one of the most underrated coaches in college football, as he has led South Dakota through five straight winning seasons, establishing the Coyotes as a competitive team.

Senior quarterback Noah Shepard returns after finishing fourth in the conference in total offense with 240.5 yards per game. Shepard had 13 rushing touchdowns last year. Sophomore running back Chris Ganious may be a big-play man for South Dakota in 2009 after rushing for 755 yards a year ago. He averaged an eye-catching 6.6 yards per carry and is one of the fastest players in the conference.

Southern Utah (4-7, 1-3) was competitive most of the season despite a losing record. One of its wins came over traditional powerhouse Youngstown State, and second-year coach Ed Lamb has confidence going into 2009 since his team was four games better in '08 than it was the previous year.

Junior wide receiver Tysson Poots may be the league's top playmaker. He had 83 receptions last year for 1,236 yards and 14 touchdowns, and is an explosive performer who can find the end zone.

Senior linebacker Robert Takeno, who led the Thunderbirds in tackles with 94 last year, paces the defense.

COURTESY MATT BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

IVY LEAGUE

Penn defense aims to make Crimson blush

By Steve Silverman
correspondent

Traditionally, Harvard and Yale battle for Ivy League honors each year. The two storied rivals close every season with the classic matchup.

But the 2008 title race featured Harvard and Brown, and the '09 competition should showcase Harvard and Penn. What happened to the Bulldogs? They should be good this year but might be a few games shy of title contender status.

Last year, Brown had the league's most versatile offensive attack as quarterback Michael Dougherty threw 19 touchdown passes while Bobby Sewall and Buddy Farnham dominated Ivy League secondaries with their speed and agility. Running back Dereck Knight gave the Bears a solid ground game as they went 6-1 in conference play to tie the Crimson for the Ivy League title.

Harvard's only loss was a narrow defeat to Brown (24-22), but the team did not let that impact its psyche. Coach Tim Murphy has built a resilient program that won nine games last year. Quarterback Chris Pizzotti threw 17 TD passes and was named the Ivy League Player of the Year.

Both Dougherty and Pizzotti have finished their college careers. While the Bears have some talent left, it would be a stretch to see them compete for the title again. Harvard, however, should once again contend if it can hold off a powerful Penn defense.

Same story, different year for **Harvard** (9-1 overall, 6-1 Ivy). The Crimson should continue their tradition of winning in the Ivy League. While they will need a replacement for Pizzotti, the Crimson have a talented running back in Gino Gordon, who gained 578 yards and had five rushing TDs with help from the best offensive line in the conference.

The keys to the offensive line are James Williams and Alex Spisak, both of whom enter their senior seasons coming off All-Ivy honors last year. Williams was a first-team offensive lineman while Spisak made the second team.

On defense, the Crimson should get a lift from sophomore defensive back Matthew Hanson and junior cornerback Collin Zych. Kicker Patrick Long gives Harvard a threat when the offense bogs down.

Penn (6-4, 5-2) coach Al Bagnoli should have his Quakers in an excellent position to challenge for the Ivy crown. While the Quakers can take advantage of errors with their offense, they are dependent on the defense's ability to take away the ball.

Defensive back Chris Wynn is a ballhawk with a chance to be Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year after making the All-Ivy first team last season. Wynn, who had five interceptions and nine passes defended in 2008, is an acrobatic playmaker.

On offense, Michael DiMaggio returns as a talented between-the-tackles running back. Seniors Brendan McNally and Kyle Olson should battle for the starting QB job. Kicker Andrew Samson was a first-team All-Ivy performer after making 16 of 19 field-goal attempts last year.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense Jordan Culbreath, *RB, Princeton*
Defense Chris Wynn, *CB, Penn*
Newcomer Joe Holder, *WR, Penn*

THE IVY LEAGUE

New **Yale** (6-4, 4-3) coach Tom Williams should lead the Bulldogs to another solid season. He will be able to depend on returning QB Brook Hart, who may be the top returning signal-caller in the league. He completed 87 of 140 passes for 919 yards with seven TDs last season. Hart's weapons include senior tight end John Sheffield and junior wideout Jordan Forney. Defensively, senior tackle Tom McCarthy (29 tackles and eight for loss last year) is difficult to block.

Though **Brown** (7-3, 6-1) is not coming back to an empty cupboard, replacing Dougherty won't be easy. Farnham and Sewall both made the All-Ivy first team and so did tackle Paul Jasinowski, who returns to anchor the offensive line.

The defense has a chance to dominate thanks to the return of tackle David Howard. He had 6.5 sacks last year and made the All-Ivy team. Also back are end James Develin and safety Chris Perkins, both of whom won second-team Ivy honors last year.

The **Princeton** (4-6, 3-4) Tigers were one of the most inconsistent teams in the league last year. But they should have an interesting offense led by running back Jordan Culbreath, who returns after rushing for 1,206 yards and scoring 10 TDs in 2008. Junior linebacker Steven Cody leads the defense after recording 85 tackles and two sacks last year.

Columbia (2-8, 2-5) struggled in 2008 but coach Norries Wilson's team could surprise this year. Junior quarterback M.A. Olawale returns after rushing for 392 yards and passing for four TDs. Senior receiver Austin Knowlin should be a dual threat for the Lions. He had four TD receptions and is a big-time weapon on special teams after recording 646 combined return yards with two scores last season.

Cornell (4-6, 2-5) started the 2008 season with a 3-0 record before falling apart and winning only one more game. The Big Red will depend on senior running back Randy Barbour and senior wide receiver Bryan Walters to turn around the offense.

Junior linebacker Chris Costello showed he is a force after recording 90 tackles last year, including nine behind the line of scrimmage.

Dartmouth (0-10, 0-7) and coach Buddy Teevens had a run of bad luck last year. However, the team returns some decent skill-position players, including senior QB Alex Jenny (1,309 passsing yards, 5 TDs) and freshman signal-caller Conner Kempe (655, 2).

Keep an eye on sophomore cornerback Shawn Abuhoff, who had 43 tackles, five passes defended and three interceptions last year.

PREDICTIONS

1. Harvard
2. Penn
3. Yale
4. Brown
5. Princeton
6. Columbia
7. Cornell
8. Dartmouth

GAME TO WATCH

11/14/09
Penn @ Harvard
In recent years, Yale and Brown battled Harvard for Ivy League honors. Now its Penn's turn.

FCS

MEAC

PREDICTIONS

1. South Carolina State
2. Florida A&M
3. Bethune-Cookman
4. Hampton
5. Norfolk State
6. Morgan State
7. Delaware State
8. North Carolina A&T
9. Howard

TOP PLAYERS

Offense Curtis Pulley, *QB, Florida A&M*

Defense Terrell Whitehead, *FS, Norfolk State*

Newcomer Chris Bell, *WR, Norfolk State*

GAME TO WATCH

10/17/09
Florida A&M @ South Carolina State

This game will feature a showdown between the S.C. State duo of QB Malcolm Long and running back Will Ford, and FAMU QB Curtis Pulley and running back Phillip Sylvester.

Rattlers looking to sneak up and bite MEAC king

By Lut Williams
Black College Sports Page

In 2008, Buddy Pough's South Carolina State Bulldogs blasted their way to be the top of the MEAC with an undefeated league mark to take the school's first conference title in 14 years.

The Bulldogs' only regular-season blemishes came from UCF and Clemson, both Football Bowl Subdivision schools. And the team proved its strength with a competitive first-round loss against three-time defending Football Championship Subdivision champion Appalachian State in the playoffs.

Bunched behind S.C. State were Florida A&M, Bethune-Cookman, Hampton and Delaware State, all of which tied for second (5-3) in the league standings. Morgan State and Norfolk State were just behind that group. But any of the six, particularly Florida A&M, are capable of dethroning the Bulldogs this year.

The league's best offense (382.5 yards per game) and defense (17.0 points per game) carried **South Carolina State** (10-3 overall, 8-0 MEAC) to last year's title. And despite the loss of seven All-MEAC selections, the Bulldogs return a number of players who fueled their title run. Running back William Ford, the reigning MEAC Offensive Player of the Year (1,499 yards, 13 TDs), is back for his senior season, as is backfield mate Travil Jamison (586 rushing yards, 16 TDs).

All-MEAC selections Markee Hamlin (safety) and Marshall McFadden (linebacker) spearhead the defense.

Florida A&M (9-3, 5-3) was thrust into the limelight in '08 under the leadership of coach Joe Taylor and the dazzling play of quarterback Curtis Pulley (1,382 passing yards, 17 TDs), both of whom are back and ready to take aim at a conference title.

Special-teams ace LeRoy Vann—who brought back three kickoffs and three punts for touchdowns in 2008—heads a list of all-star returnees that also includes running back Philip Sylvester, wideout Kevin Elliott, defensive lineman Cameron Houston and corner Curtis Holcomb.

Alvin Wyatt showed his coaching savvy last season, leading a **Bethune-Cookman** (8-3, 5-3) team racked with injuries into the thick of the conference title race. To complement dependable running back Brian Sumlar (759 yards, 10 TDs) and wideout Phillip Kirkland (25 catches, 2 TDs), Wyatt will choose from seven quarterback prospects, including 2008 spot starter Maurice Francois.

Lineman Dexter Jackson and twin cornerbacks Antonio and Antwane Cox will lead a defense that ranked second in the MEAC in scoring (19.1 ppg) last year.

After 18 years as a defensive assistant, Donovan Rose takes over a **Hampton** (6-5, 5-3) team full of offensive weapons. Rose inherits quarterback Herbert Bynes, the 2008 MEAC leader in passing (247.5 ypg). Running backs LaMarcus Coker and Dennis Mathis will be pushed by newcomer Steven Robinson, a juco All-American.

End Michael Swett, tackle Kendrick Ellis and safety Jonathan Wade will look to shore up a defense that gave up a gaudy 332.7 yards per game last season.

Norfolk State (5-7, 3-5) boasts some of the top skill-position players in the conference in running backs DeAngelo Branche (1,055 rushing yards, 10 TDs) and Takeem Hedgeman. Penn State transfer Chris Bell will join a receiving corps that includes Jeremy Wicker and P.J. Hayden. Though lack of depth on defense is a concern, the Spartans feature the league's premier safety, Terrell Whitehead (83 tackles, 4 INTs).

Morgan State's (6-6, 4-4) Devan James (1,337 rushing yards, 8 TDs) teams with Keith Lee to give the Bears two rushing options. Quarterback Carlton Jackson returns from a late-season injury in 2008 and will likely be challenged by freshman Delonte Williams.

First-team All-MEAC defenders Darren McKhan (cornerback) and Justin Lawrence (tackle) and linebackers George Howard and Troy Leftwich will be key to a solid defense in 2009.

Delaware State (5-6, 5-3) needs to rebuild after losing quarterback Vashon Winton, who will be succeeded by either Anthony Glaud or Nick Elko. Cincinnati transfer Tahree McQueen and Jaashawn Jones are options at running back, and Larrone Moore will likely become the No. 1 wideout.

Inside linebacker Josh Pope anchors a defense that lost six starters, including three on the line. The secondary, which returns three players, will be in good hands with strong safety Avery Grant (68 tackles).

North Carolina A&T (3-9, 1-7) fans hope new coach Alonzo Lee brings his magic back to Aggieland. In stints as defensive coordinator at Howard, Florida A&M, Hampton and A&T, Lee led the teams to championship seasons. Lee should bring discipline to an A&T program that's had just six wins in the last three seasons. He'll build around returning quarterback Carlton Fears on offense and linebacker Andre Thornton on defense.

Coach Carey Bailey was hit with an in-house compliance debacle at **Howard** (1-10, 0-8) last year that cost him nearly 20 players. With that problem fixed, the Bison are looking to improve. Floyd Haigler returns at quarterback and will throw to a healthy Willie Carter, who suffered a broken ankle in '08. The offensive line will try to open holes for running backs Ramon McElrathbey and Terrence Leffall.

Safety Arando Jamison leads the defense.

MISSOURI VALLEY

Panthers, Salukis still teams to beat in 'new' conference

By Randy Reinhardt
Bloomington (Ill.) Pantagraph

The Missouri Valley Football Conference embraced significant change in 2008. Along with the branding switch away from the Gateway Football Conference, membership also expanded to nine with the additions of South Dakota State and North Dakota State.

Still, not all was new. Perennial powerhouses Northern Iowa and Southern Illinois stood firm in the Valley penthouse, tying for the conference championship at 7-1.

Since hard-chargers Herb Donaldson of Western Illinois and North Dakota State's Tyler Roehl and speedy dynamos Corey Lewis of Northern Iowa and Southern Illinois' Larry Warner have moved on, there now is room at the top for a new group of elite running backs.

The conference's top returning rusher is South Dakota State's Kyle Minett. Illinois State's Geno Blow, Western Illinois' Dre Gibbs, Missouri State's Kingjack Washington and Derrick Law of Northern Iowa could all ascend into the league's upper echelon of tailbacks.

Northern Iowa (12-3 overall, 7-1 Missouri Valley) dropped a crushing 21-20 decision to eventual FCS champion Richmond in the national semifinals, and the team is primed for postseason redemption.

Quarterback Pat Grace is among nine returning offensive starters. Grace's versatility (2,041 yards passing, 618 rushing) makes the Panthers a chore to defend.

Last season's MVC Defensive Player of the Year, James Ruffin, returns as a disruptive force at end. Linebackers Josh Mahoney and Jamar Thompson both topped 100 tackles last year.

A stout 2008 **Southern Illinois** (9-3, 7-1) defense may only get better this fall. The Salukis return 10 starters from a unit that ranked second in the conference for scoring defense (17.8 points per game). Southern will be led by first-team all-conference players in linebacker Brandin Jordan and cornerback Korey Lindsey.

On offense, seven starters are back, including quarterback Chris Dieker, who should build on an encouraging first year at the helm of coach Dale Lennon's team.

Western Illinois (6-4, 4-4) appeared inspired by coach Don Patterson's bout with tonsil cancer. The team started out 5-2, as Patterson had to miss two months of the season to undergo treatment. But the Leathernecks stumbled down the stretch by winning just one of their final four contests to torpedo any playoff aspirations.

Patterson is cancer-free and back on the sidelines, but running back Donaldson is not. Donaldson rushed for 4,746 yards and 50 touchdowns during his career. The Leathernecks will turn to Gibbs, who rushed for 573 yards and earned All-MVC and third-team All-America honors at fullback last year.

The departure of quarterback Ryan Berry leaves a void at **South Dakota State** (7-5, 6-2). Ryan Crawford, likely Berry's replacement, completed 14 of 20 passes in relief duty as part of a potent Jackrabbits' offense that topped the conference at 35.6 points per game.

South Dakota State's defense boasts first-team All-Valley lineman Danny Batten and proven commodities in safety Conrad Kjerstad, cornerback Cole Brodie and linebackers Jimmy Rogers, Chris Johnson and Derek Domino.

North Dakota State (6-5, 4-4) entered the conference last year riding the momentum of back-to-back 10-1 seasons. So when the Bison barely kept their heads above .500 in 2008, folks were disappointed in Fargo.

The offense received a major boost when game-breaking wide receiver/kick returner Shamen Washington was granted an injury waiver by the NCAA to play one more season. Quarterback Nick Mertens tossed 16 TDs but also had 15 interceptions in an up-and-down '08.

Look for a bounce-back season from **Youngstown State** (4-8, 3-5). Last year's record was the program's worst since 1995, as a rash of injuries struck the Penguins.

A defense that returns nine starters will be led by lineman Crispin Fernandez, linebacker Roshon Simons, free safety Brandian Ross and cornerback Lenny Wicks.

Offensive-line depth is a concern, but quarterback Brandon Summers was a success in his first season as a starter (1,540 passing yards and 18 TDs).

Coach Terry Allen and quarterback Cody Kirby have revived the **Missouri State** (4-7, 3-5) offense, but the Bears' defense lags.

Kirby passed for 2,014 yards last fall and enters his third season as starter in the Missouri State spread attack. His weapons include well-decorated tight end Clay Harbor (85 receptions over the past two seasons) and the elusive Washington.

New coach Brock Spack has a lot of new ideas for **Illinois State** (3-8, 2-6), one of which is to install the spread offense utilized at his former school, Purdue.

Who will call signals in the new system remains to be seen. The only quarterback with game experience is sophomore Drew Kiel, who saw limited time as a backup last season.

Strong safety Kelvyn Hemphill is a defensive stalwart, but changes are expected for a unit that coughed up more than 30 points per game for a second straight year.

Indiana State (0-12, 0-8) coach Trent Miles enters his second year of massive rebuilding. Junior Darrius Gates rushed for 566 yards as one of 18 Sycamores to carry the football in 2008.

Safeties Donye McCleskey and Alex Sewall and lineman Rod Hardy are among the team's top defenders.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense Kyle Minett, *RB, South Dakota State*
Defense James Ruffin, *DE, Northern Iowa*
Newcomer Justin Rideau, *WR, Western Illinois*

PREDICTIONS

1. Northern Iowa
2. Southern Illinois
3. Western Illinois
4. South Dakota State
5. North Dakota State
6. Youngstown State
7. Missouri State
8. Illinois State
9. Indiana State

GAME TO WATCH

10/17/09
Southern Illinois at Northern Iowa

Southern Illinois handed Northern Iowa its lone 2008 conference defeat by a field goal. The Panthers will try to return the favor at the UNI Dome in a contest that is likely to have league championship implications once again.

FCS

NORTHEAST

PREDICTIONS

1 Albany
2 Monmouth
3 Sacred Heart
4 Central Connecticut St.
5 Robert Morris
6 Wagner
7 Duquesne
8 St. Francis (Pa.)

TOP PLAYERS

Offense David McCarty, *RB, Albany*
Defense Ray Saunders, *DE, Central Connecticut State*
Newcomer Marcel Archer, *RB, Sacred Heart*

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE NEC

GAME TO WATCH

10/24/09
Albany at Monmouth

The meeting that decided the 2008 title will likely do the same in '09. Monmouth led 14-0 at halftime in last year's match, but Albany rallied for a 35-17 win. This year, however, Monmouth has the home field.

Strong ground game will help Danes weather NEC storm

By Steve Amedio
Schenectady (N.Y.) Gazette

Teams in the Northeast Conference face harsh weather conditions every year. By mid-fall in the Northeast, blustery winter snow and rain come as often as sunny days. This means handing off the ball is a safer recourse than passing it in unpredictable elements.

It also means the race for the conference title will go to the swift.

But that doesn't narrow the field, as 2009 will feature the best rushing talent the NEC has had in years.

The conference's best two running backs, Albany's David McCarty and Monmouth's David Sinisi, return, so an upheaval at the top of the NEC is unlikely.

Sinisi and McCarty aren't the only standout NEC runners. Central Connecticut State has James Mallory, who joined Sinisi and McCarty as 1,500-plus-yard rushers in 2008. Robert Morris features Myles Russ, fourth on the NEC rushing list a year ago. Duquesne returns Cleo Williams, No. 6 among league rushers in 2008. And Sacred Heart brings in Marcel Archer, a transfer from Central Michigan.

Albany (9-3 overall, 7-0 NEC) has dominated the NEC the past two years, with only one conference loss to Monmouth in 2006 as proof. Expect the same this season. McCarty had 1,581 rushing yards in the 2008 regular season and tacked on another 271 in a 28-0 victory over Jacksonville in the Gridiron Classic. Also back are quarterback Vinny Esposito (1,793 passing yards, 13 TDs) and wide receiver Tim Bush (58 catches, 697 yards).

Defensively, the Danes have the best linebackers in the league with first-team All-NEC returnee Justin Brancaccio and Dave Nicomini, a 2007 All-NEC selection who missed last season with an injury.

A year ago, **Monmouth** (7-4, 6-1) had a 14-0 halftime lead at Albany before suffering a 35-17 setback. Sinisi (1,674 rushing yards, 22 TDs) was the league's 2008 MVP, and he'll benefit from the return of first-team All-NEC lineman Shawn Wright. Still, Monmouth lost its quarterback, which is a question coach Kevin Callahan will have to answer as senior Andrew Mandeville is the only contender with experience.

Defensively, eight starters return, including safety Jose Gumbs, the 2008 NEC Defensive Rookie of the Year.

Though **Sacred Heart** (8-3, 4-3) has lost its best runner from a year ago (Evin Jones), it appears to have a replacement in Archer, a junior transfer who had seven touchdowns as a freshman at Central Michigan, but only saw limited action last year as a sophomore. Couple Archer with junior quarterback Dale Fink, who led the NEC last season in completions (215), and the Pioneers' backfield is in good hands. The offense will also get a boost from wide receiver Steve Tedesco (NEC-leading 77 catches) and lineman Justin Smith.

The Pioneers have strength on the defensive line with Bill O'Brien anchoring. However, there's only one returning starter in the secondary.

Central Connecticut State (7-4, 4-3) has been above .500 for five straight seasons and could make it six behind Mallory (1,520 rushing yards). The Blue Devils have a workable platoon at quarterback with passer Hunter Wanket (70-of-121 for 833 yards) and Aubrey Norris (1,370 career rushing yards).

The team's biggest loss came on the defensive line with the graduation of two players, but reinforcements come from a pair of Iona transfers in Gene Johnson and Rich Royster. They'll join end Ray Saunders, who led the NEC in sacks (7.0) last season.

Robert Morris (5-6, 4-3) was once the league's dominant team, winning or sharing the NEC title from 1996-2000. How quickly the Colonials can develop a quarterback—likely Camdin Crouse, who completed just five of six attempts last season—will determine if they can contend this season. The rest of the offense is set with Russ (1,255 rushing yards) leading the way. Also, the NEC's Offensive Rookie of the Year, wide receiver James O'Quinn (27 catches, 622 yards), returns.

Lineman Alex DiMichele (116 tackles), end Mark Szmanski and safety Michael Landers are the top returnees on defense.

Wagner (3-8, 1-6) will be chasing its first .500 conference record since 2002. Returning at quarterback is Adam Farnsworth, who might be pushed by 22-year-old freshman Nick Doscher. Doscher enters college after four years as a catcher in the Kansas City Royals' organization.

However, the Seahawks need to find replacements for four players on defense. But the entire defensive backfield returns, led by second-team All-NEC player Stefen Gage.

Last year's young **Duquesne** (3-7, 2-5) team struggled in its inaugural season in the NEC. But there's potential for improvement this year behind prolific quarterback Connor Dixon (211 passing yards per game) and running back Cleo Williams (849 rushing yards). Also back on offense is tight end Sean Bunevich, a second-team All-NEC pick last season.

On defense, the Dukes will be led by junior linebacker Nathan Totino, a first-team All-NEC member a year ago.

Saint Francis (0-11, 0-7) has never had a winning season in the NEC, and that isn't likely to change this year, as the Red Flash are missing a feature running back. But four All-NEC honorees return in linebacker Scott Lewis, offensive lineman Cody Kekipi, linebacker Matt Parker and wide receiver Omar Winston.

OHIO VALLEY

Despite recent success, Eastern Kentucky still looking up at JSU, Tennessee-Martin

By Michael Grant
Louisville Courier-Journal

Has Eastern Kentucky returned as the dominant force in the Ohio Valley Conference?

This season could provide an answer. Last year the Colonels shrugged off a coaching change to repeat as champions. This fall they'll have to do it with a new quarterback, which is why Eastern Kentucky likely won't be favored. Jacksonville State and Tennessee-Martin figure to finish ahead of the Colonels.

Jacksonville State enjoyed success when it joined the league in 2003. The Gamecocks won titles in their first two OVC seasons and appear ready to grab another with quarterback Ryan Perrilloux. Tennessee-Martin, once one of the worst FCS programs in the country, was in position last year to capture its second championship in two years but fell to Eastern Kentucky in the season finale.

Still, Eastern Kentucky wasn't predicted to win the past two league titles, so don't be surprised if the Colonels end up claiming their 21st OVC crown.

In his first year at **Jacksonville State** (8-3 overall, 6-2 OVC), Perrilloux didn't dominate the OVC but fared well. The heralded LSU transfer helped the Gamecocks tie for second place and finish 22nd in the final FCS coaches poll. He was second in the conference in passing yards (210.7 per game) but only fourth in efficiency (140.9). Perrilloux is one of four All-OVC Gamecocks returning. As a senior, he should contend for league MVP honors.

The defense should be in good hands with All-American Carnell Clark. The safety was second on the team in tackles (66).

The most important returnee for **Tennessee-Martin** (8-4, 6-2) is coach Jason Simpson, who was courted by Chattanooga. Simpson has quickly built on the successful foundation laid by predecessor Matt Griffin. In three seasons, Simpson has gone 21-14, won the OVC in his first season and came within one victory of another title last year. The pitch-and-catch All-OVC combination of quarterback Cade Thompson and wide receiver Mike Hicks looks to be lethal on the field this fall. Thompson led the OVC in passing yards (223.3) and touchdown passes (24) last year, while Hicks was second in receiving yards (74.5) and tops in TD receptions (12).

Eastern Kentucky (8-4, 7-1) coach Dean Head's rookie season was a success marking the first time the Colonels have won back-to-back conference championships since 1993 and '94. They will now try to become the first team to pull off an OVC three-peat since EKU turned the trick in 1986-88. The biggest question mark is who will replace quarterback Allan Holland, the director of those two championship seasons. With Holland gone, Cody Watts and Trevor Hoskins will battle for the job. Head would prefer to have Watts at wide receiver, where he caught 23 passes for 386 yards and five scores as a sophomore last year.

Murray State (5-7, 4-4) had its first sign of progress under fourth-year coach Matt Griffin. After winning only once in each of Griffin's first three seasons, the Racers enjoyed their best record since 2004. Griffin began at Tennessee-Martin, which shared the OVC title in 2006. Using that as a barometer, Murray State should contend this season. Three All-OVC players are back in defensive lineman Austen Lane, receiver Derrick Townsel and tight end DeAngelo Nelson. As a junior, Lane led the league in sacks (12) last year, while his 22 tackles for a loss were tied for most in the FCS.

Eastern Illinois (5-7, 3-5) had an atypical season in 2008, finishing with a losing OVC record for the first time since 2003. While the Panthers say goodbye to Travorus Bess, they gain Mon Williams, a Florida transfer. He will have two years of eligibility remaining. Eastern Illinois must improve an offense that ranked sixth in the league (303.9 ypg) and second to last in passing (160.9) in 2008.

Tennessee State (8-4, 5-3) has a huge hole to fill with the departure of 2008 OVC MVP Javarris Williams, who rushed for 4,329 career yards, fifth best in school history. However, Williams missed the final two games of last season, which allowed the Tigers to audition Dante' Thomas and Preston Brown. The Tigers also must replace QB Antonio Heffner. Defensive tackle Donte'e Nicholls, a South Carolina transfer, arrives to beef up the line.

After a surprising 5-3 record in its return to the OVC in 2007, **Austin Peay** (2-9, 2-6) came back to earth in '08. But the Governors should improve with nine starters returning on defense and eight on offense. Leading tackler Daniel Becker (102 total stops), a second-team All-OVC choice, will be back. Also, Austin Peay should win the field-position battle with standout return man Terrence Holt (1,285 return yards).

The pressure might be on coach Tony Samuel to have a breakthrough season at **Southeast Missouri State** (4-8, 2-6). The Redhawks need to find a running game, as they were last in the league last year (97.5 ypg). The addition of Arkansas transfer Dominic Maldonado to the offensive line could help. The team does return receiver Walter Peoples, who led the OVC in receiving yards while adding 65 receptions and six TDs.

Things could be looking up for **Tennessee Tech** (3-9, 1-7), which lost only seven seniors. Four FBS transfers should help, including former UAB defensive end/linebacker Kelvin Quarles.

PREDICTIONS

1. Jacksonville State
2. Tennessee-Martin
3. Eastern Kentucky
4. Murray State
5. Eastern Illinois
6. Tennessee State
7. Austin Peay
8. Southeast Missouri State
9. Tennessee Tech

GAME TO WATCH

11/21/09
Eastern Kentucky
@ Jacksonville State

This season finale figures to play a role in deciding the OVC championship. It should also be a redemption game for Ryan Perrilloux, who threw five interceptions in last year's 38-35 loss at Eastern Kentucky.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense Ryan Perrilloux, *QB, Jacksonville State*
Defense Austen Lane, *DL, Murray State*
Newcomer Mon Williams, *RB, Eastern Illinois*

FCS

PATRIOT LEAGUE

PREDICTIONS

1. Colgate
2. Holy Cross
3. Lafayette
4. Lehigh
5. Fordham
6. Bucknell
7. Georgetown

TOP PLAYERS

Offense Dominic Randolph, *QB, Holy Cross*

Defense Mark Leggiero, *LB, Lafayette*

Newcomer Zach Barket, *RB, Lehigh*

GAME TO WATCH

10/24/09
Colgate at Holy Cross

Colgate has won seven of its last eight meetings with Holy Cross, including a one-point title-clinching victory last November. Holy Cross's 27-20 win in Worcester, Mass., in 2007 ended a string of six consecutive wins by Colgate.

Crusaders looking for revenge on Raiders in Patriot games

By Ed Laubach
correspondent

Holy Cross did a turnabout last December when the Patriot League granted the team's prolific quarterback, Dominic Randolph, a medical redshirt and fifth year of eligibility. Now the Crusaders have a chance to win their first championship since 1991.

But will the Crusaders' defense be stout enough to throttle another punishing ground attack from defending champion Colgate?

Still fresh in the mind of coach Tom Gilmore is last November's 28-27 Colgate victory that sent the Raiders to the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs for the eighth time in school history.

"We have unfinished business," Gilmore says. "That was a real bitter way to end the year. We've been so close the last three years. We're just a little short of being an awfully good football team. Having Dom back enhances our chances."

Holy Cross and Colgate may not be the only title contenders in 2009. Lehigh, Lafayette, Bucknell and Fordham are all capable of making a championship run.

Severe ankle injuries to quarterback Alex Relph and running back Jordan Scott opened the doors for two athletes at **Colgate** (9-3 overall, 5-0 Patriot) last season. Quarterback Greg Sullivan (1,695 passing yards, 898 rushing yards) and running back Nate Eachus (932 rushing yards) stepped up behind an experienced line and led the Raiders to their sixth Patriot League championship. The duo is back and will work behind a line that returns only guard Zach Posey. The league's top wideout, Pat Simonds (65 catches, 1,136 yards, 9 TDs), is also back.

The Raiders return eight on defense, including four all-league performers—end Austin Douglas, nose tackle Paul Mancuso, linebacker Greg Hadley and cornerback Wayne Moten, the team's MVP.

Will this be the year **Holy Cross** (7-4, 5-1) ends its streak of late-season heartbreaks? In addition to losing the title last year to Colgate, the Crusaders lost back-to-back games to Fordham and Lafayette in '07 and fell to Lehigh and Colgate in the final three weeks of '06. The Crusaders hope to buck that trend as Randolph (3,838 yards, 34 TDs) returns for a final year at quarterback. He'll throw to experienced wideouts Josh Jenkins (35 catches, 329 yards) and Nick Cole (30, 281).

Nine players return to a defense that ranked last in the conference against the pass last year. But of those nine, three are second-team All-Patriot players—linebackers Sean Lamkin and Marcus Rodriguez and corner Michael Wright.

Maurice White is finally healthy for the 2009 season at **Lafayette** (7-4, 3-3). Sidelined with injuries in '07 and '08, the running back enters his last season with a chance to produce an elusive 1,000-yard campaign. Quarterback Rob Curley is favored to open the season under center. He'll throw to a bevy of untested receivers.

First-team all-league linebacker Mark Leggiero (93 tackles) is the heart of a Leopards defense that also features tackles Ian Dell and Andrew Poulson and safety Eric McGovern.

Lehigh (5-6, 4-2) has been dominant over the past 11 years, claiming four league titles between 1998-2001. But this year's squad may have too many questions to contend, particularly in the receiving corps and at running back. The Mountain Hawks boast solid quarterback J.B. Clark (2,350 yards, 23 TDs), but his primary targets are gone. The running-back position could go to highly regarded incoming freshman Zach Barket.

One of the league's top defensive units should only improve with first-team All-Patriot stars B.J. Benning (6.0 sacks in '08) at nose guard and linebacker Matt Cohen (53 tackles). Second-team All-Patriot pick Jarard Cribbs (3 INTs) and John Kennedy (65 tackles) rank among the top corners in the league.

Despite returning a number of starters from its league championship team in 2007, **Fordham** (5-6, 1-5) plunged to a sixth-place finish last year. Quarterback John Skelton (2,605 passing yards), running back Xavier Martin (1,237 rushing yards), wideout Asa Lucas (36 catches, 449 yards) and linebacker James Crockett (67 tackles, 3 forced fumbles) are back to try again. Nose guard Darzell Wright and linebacker Andre Delaire (71 tackles) head a defense that has voids to fill at both tackles and safety.

Though **Bucknell** (5-6, 2-4) returns 18 starters, the team doesn't look like it can catch the league powers. Productive running back and kick-return man A.J. Kizekai, who was fifth nationally in all-purpose yards (1,840) last year, returns. So does wide receiver Shaun Pasternak (12 TDs, 1,083 yards), the Bison's 2008 MVP. There could be a battle at quarterback, as Marcello Trigg and C.J. Hopson both return.

The Bison must shore up the league's worst defense, beginning with a front line that struggled to reach the quarterback last season. Linebacker Greg Jones (88 tackles) will be the group's stabilizing force.

Georgetown (2-8, 0-5) has floundered since joining the league in 2001 and there's little sign of improvement, for '09. The Hoyas boast all-league safety Travis Mack and Keerome Lawrence, who splits time at quarterback and wide receiver. Running back and kick returner Charlie Houghton, the league's Rookie of the Year in 2006, needs to stay healthy.

Linebacker Nick Parrish (73 tackles) provided highlights in last year's loss to Holy Cross by returning two interceptions for touchdowns. Safety Chris Rau and end Ataefiok Etukeren are other proven defenders.

PIONEER

Dolphins look to jump at second straight league title

By Andy Jasner
correspondent

What started out shaky ended with a celebration for Jacksonville. After losing three of its first five games, Jacksonville rallied to its first Pioneer Football League Championship.

And JU looks primed for a run at a second consecutive crown in 2009.

The Dolphins have depth in every facet of the game. If quarterback Josh McGregor can recover from offseason surgery, they'll be even more dangerous under coach Kerwin Bell.

Sebastian Trujillo › San Diego

The rest of the PFL—with the exception of Marist, which is in its first year as a full member—has improved, especially San Diego and Dayton.

Both the Toreros and Flyers remained in the PFL race until the end of the 2008 season. Key returnees should make for an exciting three-team showdown.

Jacksonville (9-4 overall, 7-1 Pioneer) has aspirations of capturing back-to-back Pioneer Football League championships. The Dolphins return a bevy of talent from last year's team, which strung together a seven-game winning streak. McGregor set a school record for most passing yards in a season with 2,444. He's already fourth on the school's all-time passing-yardage list. If McGregor isn't ready, Erik Stepelton is able to step in.

Jacksonville's defense was stingy last year, holding six opponents to 10 points or less. If the Dolphins can put it all together, they'll have a talented team this fall.

Dayton (9-3, 6-2) won nine of its first 10 games and was in line for a league championship, but the Flyers lost a heartbreaking 14-13 decision to Morehead State and followed that with an 19-14 loss at Jacksonville.

Despite the late-season collapse, optimism remains high for this year's squad. Junior wide receiver/return specialist Steve Valentino returns after being named to the All-PFL first team. However, the Flyers could struggle on defense with the loss of end Scott Vossler and tackle Kalen Hemmelgarn. Still, this is a program that looks to be reloading rather than rebuilding.

San Diego (9-2, 6-2) has holes to fill, most notably at wide receiver with the loss of John Matthews. He led the FCS in receptions (102) and touchdowns (21) last year, and finished second in receiving yards (1,478). The Toreros will feature senior quarterback Sebastian Trujillo, who threw for 2,822 yards and 35 TDs, the third-best mark in school history. Also returning is defensive back Al-Rilwan Adeyemi, the 2008 PFL Freshman Defensive Player of the Year.

Drake (6-5, 4-4) was one of the more pleasant surprises a year ago. The Bulldogs extended their string of consecutive winning seasons to five with a 32-0 win over Valparaiso in the season finale. That win also allowed Drake to snap a seven-game losing streak on the road thanks to a pair of TDs by Patrick Oliver, who will be a sophomore this season. The Bulldogs must replace nine key seniors, but the combination of Oliver and senior fullback Steve Platek will be tough for any team to stop.

Butler's (6-5, 4-4) six wins in 2008, the most since 1997, was a surprise for fans. Sophomore defensive end Grant Hunter, who led the PFL with 14 sacks last year, will return to anchor the up-and-coming defense. Senior wide receiver Dan Bohrer is also back. He set a school record with 11 TDs and finished second in the PFL with 70 receptions and 953 receiving yards.

Morehead State (6-6, 4-4) jolted Dayton with a 14-13 win late last season. As usual, senior linebacker Wes McDermott will pace the Eagles. McDermott led the PFL in tackles (102) and tackles for loss (19.5) in 2008. If Morehead wants to better last year's record, McDermott will likely lead the way.

Though **Davidson** (4-7, 3-5) defeated eventual PFL champion Jacksonville, the team struggled after winning six games in 2007. As for this season, defensive lineman Will Funderburg (46 tackles, 13 tackles for loss, 2.5 sacks) is gone but senior linebacker Tyler Lemons returns. Lemons led the team last season with 91 tackles, second highest in the PFL.

For **Valparaiso** (3-8, 2-6) to stay afloat in the conference, the Crusaders must fill the void left by linebacker Ryan Koepke, who finished his career with 256 tackles. Offensively, senior running back Ross Wiemer looks to improve on last season's 824 rushing yards and 10 TDs.

Last year, **Campbell** (1-10, 0-8) kicked off its first football season since 1950. Sophomore Milton Brown led the Camels with 85 tackles and three interceptions. Campbell's lone win was a 36-27 victory over Division III Carthage College.

This season, the PFL will welcome **Marist** as its 10th member. The Red Foxes will play a full PFL slate in 2009. Last year, Marist faced both San Diego and Davidson. The Red Foxes fell to San Diego in their first game of the year, but picked up a 24-19 win at Davidson to close the season. Senior running back O'Neil Anderson will be a key factor on offense.

pioneer football league

PREDICTIONS

1. Jacksonville
2. Dayton
3. San Diego
4. Drake
5. Butler
6. Morehead State
7. Davidson
8. Valparaiso
9. Campbell
10. Marist

GAME TO WATCH

10/3/09 ›
Davidson @ Jacksonville

Davidson was the only team in the league to beat Jacksonville last season. If the Dolphins harbor hopes of winning a second consecutive league championship, they must seek revenge on the Wildcats.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense › Josh McGregor, *QB, Jacksonville*
Defense › Wes McDermott, *LB, Morehead State*
Newcomer › Jeff Quigley, *OL, San Diego*

COURTESY ROCK SCOTT

SOUTHERN

PREDICTIONS

1. Appalachian State
2. Elon
3. Wofford
4. Georgia Southern
5. Samford
6. Furman
7. The Citadel
8. Western Carolina
9. Chattanooga

Bulldogs showing teeth, but ASU should stay on top

By Matt McKenzie
Sporting News

In the tough Southern Conference, teams will take any win they can get. So when Samford entered the league last season, many thought it would be an easy victory, especially after the Bulldogs were picked last in the preseason poll.

But someone forgot to tell Samford it was the new league doormat, as the Bulldogs shocked everyone by finishing with a 6-5 overall mark and .500 record in conference play. And while everyone is still looking up at Appalachian State, Samford now joins the league's strong group of possible playoff contenders.

"I don't think I expected it until we got ready to play them," says ASU coach Jerry Moore of Samford's performance last year. "Once you studied them and watched them, then you realized, 'Hey, they're for real.' And they're extremely well-coached."

Samford coach Pat Sullivan said at the start of last season that he didn't know how his team's inaugural SoCon campaign would play out, except that every game would be a dogfight.

"All we knew was that our kids were practicing hard, the intangibles were there and they were listening to what the coaches were telling them," Sullivan says. "Then we started to develop confidence and I said, 'Hey, let's take it one game at a time and add it up at the end of the season and see where we are.'

"Each week, the quality of the opponent tells you how football is important in the Southern Conference. Every team gave us what we were looking for. But I was proud of our team; they played hard every week and gave us a chance."

With 15 starters back, the postseason is a possibility for Samford. But first the Bulldogs will have to do battle with the likes of Wofford, Elon, Georgia Southern and Furman, which all have talent but also significant questions entering the 2009 season. When predicting Nos. 2-6 in the SoCon, it might be easier to pull names out of a hat.

But all those teams will be chasing Appalachian State yet again. Led by dynamic Football Championship Subdivision All-America quarterback Armanti Edwards, the Mountaineers have outright won or shared the SoCon title the last four seasons.

The pieces are in place for **Appalachian State** (11-3 overall, 8-0 Southern) to capture its fifth straight conference crown. It starts and ends with Edwards, who threw for a conference-high 2,902 yards and 30 touchdowns while rushing for 941 yards and 11 touchdowns last year. Heading into his senior season, Edwards has accounted for a combined 10,783 yards and 108 scores.

GAME TO WATCH

11/14/09
Appalachian State @ Elon

Two of the SoCon's top offenses square off, and there's a good chance both teams will be undefeated in conference play before this penultimate game of the regular season.

The Mountaineers will hope for a healthy season from running back Devon Moore, who missed all but three games last year with an ankle injury. Devin Radford and Robert Welton are additional weapons on the ground, while wideout CoCo Hillary (735 receiving yards, 5 TDs) and All-SoCon tight end Ben Jorden (506, 6) also return.

Appalachian place five defenders on the all-conference first team last year, and four members of that group are back. Linebacker Jacque Roman led the league in tackles with 130, while D.J. Smith was right behind at 123. In the secondary, Cortez Gilbert (19) and Mark LeGree (17) finished 1-2, respectively, in passes defended. LeGree also led all FCS players with a school-record 10 interceptions in 2008.

Elon (8-4, 6-2) looks to be the one team that could loosen the Mountaineers' solid grip on the Southern crown, especially with nine starters back on offense. Headlining the Phoenix returnees is All-America wideout Terrell Hudgins, who has gone over the 1,000-yard mark in each of his three seasons. Hudgins will again team with quarterback Scott Riddle, last year's conference leader in passing yards per game (239.2).

The Phoenix more than doubled their rushing yards per contest from 2007, thanks to the emergence of junior Brandon Newsome, who notched a career-best 931 yards last season. Newsome is back (along with all five starting offensive linemen) and will look to help Elon improve on last year's total of just 11 rushing TDs.

Elon's defense ranked second in the Southern for both scoring (21.3 points per game) and total defense (327.5 yards per game), without having any players named first-team all-conference. Second-team honoree safety Walker White returns, along with leading tackler Brandon Wiggins at linebacker, and lineman Eric Ludwig.

Wofford (9-3, 7-1) enjoyed a second straight trip to the playoffs in 2008, but may be

Armanti Edwards • Appalachian State

DERICK HINGLE / ICON SMI

TOP PLAYERS

Offense Armanti Edwards, *QB, Appalachian State*

Defense Jacque Roman, *LB, Appalachian State*

Newcomer Darreion Robinson, *RB, Georgia Southern*

hard-pressed to get back to the postseason with a number of key starters gone. However, it seems that's always the case for coach Mike Ayers, who often finds ways to reload.

Ayers will be tasked with replacing tailback Dane Romero, who led the Southern in rushing touchdowns (23); quarterback Ben Widmyer (1,284 yards, 10 TDs); and wideout Andy Strickland.

After spring practice there wasn't a clear leader between sophomore Mitch Allen and junior Robby Davis at quarterback, and there's a good chance both will see significant playing time in 2009. Senior end Mitch Clark, the Southern's returning leader in sacks, will be in the running for conference Defensive Player of the Year, and the Terriers' young defense will need his leadership.

Last year was a season of coming up short for **Georgia Southern** (6-5, 4-4). In a four-game stretch, the Eagles lost by two to Elon, one to Wofford and one to Appalachian State.

The team also experienced a significant personnel loss in the offseason when quarterback Antonio Henton announced he was transferring. Henton ranked third in the SoCon in total offense with 225.5 yards per game and led the Eagles in passing last season. Sophomore Lee Chapple, who played in seven games in 2008 and threw five touchdown passes, takes over full time.

With Leander Barney now converted to wideout, the rushing chores will fall to sophomore Adam Urbano (304 yards, 7 TDs) and grayshirt freshman Darreion Robinson, who had an impressive spring.

The defense took a hard hit with the losses of Dakota Walker, who led the conference in sacks (8.5) and tackles for loss (17.5) ; Quentin Taylor, who had a SoCon best 9.8 tackles per game; and Chris Covington (14.0 tackles for loss, 6.5 sacks).

Georgia Southern's defensive strength lies in its secondary, led by returning starters Ronnie Wiggins, Carson Hill and K.R. Snipes.

Samford (6-5, 4-4) made a statement in its first year of Southern play with a road win over Georgia Southern and close losses against Appalachian State and Furman. Now the Bulldogs must prove they can remain competitive in the SoCon. A host of starters will help that cause, led by quarterback Dustin Taliaferro and running back Chris Evans.

Taliaferro, the 2008 SoCon Freshman of the Year, threw for 1,745 yards and 13 touchdowns, while Evans led the conference with 1,284 rushing yards and 14 scores.

Samford's strength last year, however, was its defense, which topped the Southern by allowing only 18.8 points and 318.5 yards per contest. Six starters from that unit are back, led by middle linebacker Bryce Smith (92 tackles, 5 INTs).

Once a yearly playoff entrant, **Furman** (7-5, 4-4) has now sat out the FCS postseason for two straight seasons. It appears to be the team hurt most by the increased talent among Southern Conference programs. Coach Bobby Lamb's squad sputtered to a 1-3 mark in its final four games, which included just 20 combined points during the last two contests.

The Paladins have the key offensive components to return to the playoffs, including senior quarterback Jordan Sorrells, who ranked third in the conference with 2,537 passing yards. Keeping defenses honest will be tailback Mike Brown, a second-team All-SoCon pick who rushed for 823 yards last year. Look for Furman to utilize sophomore fullback Tersoo Uhaa (8 rushing TDs) in the red zone.

Defense is where the Paladins need players to step up, especially with the departure of All-SoCon stars Thomas Twitty and William Middleton in the secondary. Rover Max Lerner is back after picking off four passes and earning all-conference honors in 2008.

After its first winning season in the last 10 years, **The Citadel** (4-8, 2-6) failed to capitalize on that success in 2008, losing seven of its final eight games. Most of the problems came on the defensive side of the ball. The Bulldogs were just one of two Southern teams to allow 30 or more points a contest in 2008.

The Bulldogs plan to switch to a 4-3 defense in order to improve, and players like linebacker Jordon Gilmore (89 tackles) and end Dewitt Jones (team-leading 4.0 sacks) will be counted on to lead the new scheme.

Quarterback Bart Blanchard made significant strides in his sophomore season, throwing for 2,436 yards and 19 touchdowns. Helping on offense is the return of All-America wideout Andre Roberts, who led the Southern and was fourth overall among FCS players with 1,334 receiving yards last year. Roberts is also a deadly weapon on special teams, scoring three touchdowns on punt returns in 2008.

Last season's leading rusher, Asheton Jordan, has left the school, which likely leaves the job to sophomore Terrell Dallas, who was held out of spring practice with a knee injury.

It was a learning curve for Dennis Wagner in his first season as coach at **Western Carolina** (3-9, 1-7), which included his Catamounts blowing a 31-3 fourth-quarter lead to Georgia Southern. However, with nine starters back on each side of the ball, this year's squad should be better.

After decent freshman campaigns, quarterback Zack Jaynes (1,163 passing yards, 10 TDs) and running back Quan Warley (672 rushing yards) are both back. Junior Marquel Pittman also returns after leading the team with 571 receiving yards last year.

Senior linebacker Adrian McLeod was one of only four SoCon players to total 100 or more tackles last year. The Catamounts' secondary, featuring safeties Mitchell Bell and Chris Collins, again looks to be a strength after ranking No. 1 in the conference for pass defense in 2008.

A winless conference slate and just one overall victory signaled the end for Rodney Allison at **Chattanooga** (1-11, 0-8) after a six-year tenure. Enter Russ Huesman, formerly the defensive coordinator at 2008 FCS champion Richmond.

The Mocs are coming off a season in which they ranked last in the Southern in scoring offense (12.8 ppg), total offense (224.9 ypg), scoring defense (37.9 ppg) and total defense (442.5 ypg). Huesman will have a team that returns 19 starters, including senior quarterback Jare Gault, who hopes to improve on just seven touchdown passes in 2008.

After suffering a broken hand and leg last year, running back Erroll Wynn will redshirt the 2009 campaign, opening the door for Bryan Fitzgerald to lead the way on the ground. Fitzgerald was a preseason all-conference pick last year but suffered a season-ending knee injury shortly before Chattanooga's first game.

Linebackers Joseph Thornton and Tony Swafford, the team's top two tacklers last season, return to lead the defense.

SOUTHLAND

PREDICTIONS

1. Central Arkansas
2. McNeese State
3. Texas State
4. Northwestern State
5. Nicholls State
6. Southeastern Louisiana
7. Stephen F. Austin
8. Sam Houston State

TOP PLAYERS

Offense Todd Pendland, *RB, McNeese State*
Defense Larry Hart, *DE, Central Arkansas*
Newcomer Nathan Dick, *QB, Central Arkansas*

GAME TO WATCH

11/21/09
Central Arkansas @ McNeese State

This game will likely decide the Southland championship, with the loser hoping for an at-large FCS playoff bid.

Usual suspects will battle for Southland dominance

By Scott Rabalais
correspondent

If Claude Rains were handicapping the 2009 Southland Conference race, he'd probably trot out his most famous line from "Casablanca."

"Round up the usual suspects."

Of course, the usual suspects have a new player these days with the addition of Central Arkansas, which finished with the SLC's best record in 2008 despite being ineligible for the championship. Overall, the term refers to the top four teams from last year's standings: Central Arkansas, McNeese State, Texas State (the reigning SLC champion) and Northwestern State. Any of those four have the talent, coaching and tradition to come out on top in the '09 conference race.

However, it won't be impossible for one of the bottom four teams—Nicholls State, Southeastern Louisiana, Stephen F. Austin or Sam Houston State—to break into the upper division. But it will take luck, improbable fate and a lot of upsets.

The Southland Conference will soon be expanding by two members. Lamar joins in 2010 and compete for the SLC championship in 2011. Texas-San Antonio, which is being guided by former Miami (Fla.) coach Larry Coker, will take to the field in 2011 and be eligible for the league standings in 2012.

Only three years removed from their transition from Division II to Division I, **Central Arkansas** (10-2 overall, 6-1 Southland) has made itself at home atop the Southland. OK, the Bears weren't eligible for the 2008 SLC title, but they still had the conference's best record.

Eighteen starters return from that squad, with nine back on defense, led by All-America end Larry Hart (43 tackles, 21 for loss, 12 sacks).

The offense lost All-America quarterback Nathan Brown and will be led by either senior Robbie Park or Arkansas transfer Nathan Dick.

If there's a Southland program for which the phrase "They don't rebuild, they reload" is true, it's **McNeese State** (7-4, 4-3). The Cowboys return only nine starters (6 offense, 3 defense) after graduating a big senior class, but they return key pieces in the right places.

The focal points are quarterback Derrick Fourroux (2,205 yards, 18 TDs) and tailback Todd Pendland (1,431 rushing yards, 12). End Terrance Freeman (team-best 5.5 sacks) and safety Darrell Jenkins (40 tackles) spearhead the defense.

Texas State (8-5, 5-2), which won the 2008 SLC crown, returns a talented crop of players, including quarterback Bradley George (2,660 yards, 26 TDs, 6 INTs) and running back Karrington Bush (1,065 yards, 11 TDs). Those two lead an explosive offense that could better last year's average of 453.3 yards per game.

The Bobcats didn't have a great defense a year ago, but they grew up as the season progressed. Rover Marcus Clark (85 tackles) and middle linebacker Joe Bell (69 tackles, 2 INTs) are back.

There's excitement at **Northwestern State** (7-5, 4-3) about the return of former defensive coordinator Bradley Dale Peveto, who was co-defensive coordinator at LSU last year. The new head coach, who was an assistant in Natchitoches, from 1996 to 1998, is greeted by the school's biggest senior class (21) in years and a recruiting haul ranked by some as the best in the Football Championship Subdivision.

New offensive coordinator Todd Cooley brings an offense called "Purple Strike," which will feature quarterback John Hundley (1,307 yards, 8 TDs). The defense is savvy with nine returning starters, led by safety Wesley Eckles (89 tackles, 2 INTs).

Nicholls State (3-6, 3-4) might ramp up enough momentum to be a contender in the Southland Conference this year—if only the weather will cooperate. Hurricane Gustav robbed the Colonels of not only three games in 2008, but their preseason workouts, too.

Antonio Robinson (20 catches, 502 yards, 6 TDs) returns at receiver, but has no experienced quarterback to throw to him. Linebacker Garrick Spain (60 tackles, 1 INT) was the Colonels' top stopper a year ago.

Conference opponents had better stay on their toes during matchups against **Southeastern Louisiana** (5-7, 2-5) this season. The Lions are hungry to reach the .500 mark with a team that returns seven starters on offense, six on defense and both kickers. Quarterback Brian Babin (2,806 yards, 25 TDs) ignites the offense, while top returning receiver Chris Wilson (51 catches, 740 yards, 8 TDs) is also back. Safety Tommy Connors (108 tackles) and linebacker Mark Newbill (100) will lead the defense.

For most programs, four wins isn't much to get excited about, but after going 0-11 in 2007, last year's record is a step in the right direction for **Stephen F. Austin** (4-8, 2-5).

Second-year offensive coordinator Shannon Dawson has injected excitement into the Lumberjacks' offense, which has the benefit of nine returning starters. Not the least of those is junior quarterback Jeremy Moses (4,026 yards, 41 TDs, 20 INTs), though All-America receiver Dominique Edison is gone. The defense is led by senior All-America end Tim Knicky.

Sam Houston State (4-6, 2-5) has the unenviable task of replacing quarterback Rhett Bomar, the school's all-time leader in passing yards (5,564) and total offense (6,160). Junior Bryan Randolph and sophomore Jeff Welch will vie to replace him, but they combined for only five completions for 25 yards in 2008. James Ashton (886 yards, 11 TDs) and Chris Poullard (1,038, 13 in 2007) return to give the Bearkats a strong running game.

Defensively, Sam Houston returns just three starters, though that group includes two-time All-SLC defensive end Chris Brown, who has 14 sacks over the last two seasons.

SWAC

Beating Grambling State a tall order for SWAC members

By Lut Williams
Black College Sports Page

Late coaching legend Eddie Robinson instilled a winning tradition at Grambling State, which appears in good hands with third-year coach Rod Broadway.

The Tigers have appeared in the SWAC's championship game in each of the past two seasons. After faltering two years ago, the 2008 squad administered a 41-9 thrashing to Jackson State to win the title. And in '09, Grambling will likely be back at the top.

Perhaps more remarkable than Grambling's success is Henry Frazier's turnaround of a once-moribund program at Prairie View A&M. The Panthers may have moved past Southern as the Tigers' chief competitor for West Division honors. However, a victory over Grambling will be a tall task this year.

In the East, Jackson State appears to be the team to beat, but any squad from that division looks to play second fiddle to the three powerful programs in the West.

EAST DIVISION

Quarterback Trae Rutland must improve in 2009 for **Jackson State** (7-5 overall, 6-2 SWAC) to keep its status in the East Division. The team that averaged just 21.1 points per game last season returns running backs Luther Edwards (445 yards, 7 TDs), Darius Bolela (308 yards) and Bloi-Dei Dorzon, who suffered a season-ending injury in '08.

The Tigers lost four All-SWAC defenders, including 2008 Defensive Player of the Year Marcellus Speaks and Marcus Benard, who set a school record with 16 sacks.

Alabama A&M (5-7, 4-3) needs to get its defense back to an elite playing level. Safety Al Donaldson and end Jeremy Maddox have the skills to do so.

The offense returns a bevy of talent in quarterback Kevin Atkins (2,167 passing yards, 13 TDs), running back Ulysses Banks (555 yards, 9 TDs) and wide receiver Thomas Harris (72 receptions, 1,208 yards, 7 TDs).

New offensive and defensive coordinators will join coach Reggie Barlow in hopes of changing the fortunes at **Alabama State** (3-8, 2-5). Richard Moncrief has the task of improving an offense that ranked at the bottom of the SWAC last year. Quarterback Brandon Dowdell, running back Rahmod Traylor and receiver Darius Mathis emerged from spring drills as starters.

New defensive coordinator Jo Nixon will count on linebackers Adrian Hardy (80 tackles) and Rechard Johnson (72) and cornerback Donovan Masline (3 INTs).

Quarterback Paul Roberts' passing (2,039 yards, 14 TDs) was a bright spot for **Mississippi Valley State** (3-8, 1-6) last year. He returns to throw to wide receivers Brandon Stargell (39 catches, 3 TDs) and Cameron Russ (32, 6).

The defense has five of its top six tacklers back, led by linebacker Rory Malone.

After a dismal year, **Alcorn State** (2-10, 1-6) suffered a tumultuous offseason that resulted in the dismissal of coach Ernest Jones in favor of defensive coordinator Earnest Collins Jr. Quarterback Tim Buckley, receiver Ed Johnson and running back Davaris Pilcher are keys to ratcheting up the offense.

TOP PLAYERS

Offense » Bryant Lee, *QB, Southern*
Defense » Anthony Beck, *CB, Prairie View A&M*
Newcomer » Kenneth Black, *QB, Prairie View A&M*

WEST DIVISION

Grambling State's (11-2, 8-0) 2008 championship team dominated the SWAC with most of its players being underclassmen. Quarterback Greg Dillon (1,387 passing yards, 18 TDs) should improve, along with standout running backs Cornelius Walker (719 yards, 4 TDs) and Frank Warren (546, 4).

First-team All-SWAC end Christian Anthony (55 tackles, 8 sacks) heads a defense with a secondary that led the Football Championship Subdivision in interceptions last year.

Frazier continues to write a remarkable story at **Prairie View A&M** (9-1, 6-1), as the Panthers posted their best record since 1964 last season. Nine starters return to an offense that led the league in scoring (30.7 ppg) and six are back from the SWAC's stingiest defense (237.8 yards per game, 12.8 ppg). Conference rushing leader Donald Babers (1,085 yards, 11 TDs) will take pressure off probable starting quarterback Jay Bluford. But before he takes the reins, Bluford will be challenged by Western Kentucky transfer Kenneth Black.

All-SWAC honorees Quinton Spears (end) and Anthony Beck (cornerback) will pace the defense.

Southern (6-5, 5-2) boasts two of the league's most lethal offensive players in quarterback Bryant Lee (2,682 yards, 20 TDs), the 2008 SWAC Offensive Player of the Year, and wide receiver Juamorris Stewart (76 receptions, 1,138 yards, 12 TDs), the only unanimous first-team All-SWAC member. Coach Pete Richardson needs to rebuild on defense after losing four All-SWAC players from the unit.

Talented running back Mickey Dean (632 yards, 5 TDs) will be the focal point of an offense at **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (3-9, 2-5) that must choose a new signal-caller. Vying for the job is Gvona Turner, who played in eight games last season, junior-college transfer Rontrell Bailey and Will Dunn.

Safeties Robert Mingo and Kevin Thornton will lead the secondary, while tackle Ibraham Abdulai will anchor the line.

Coach Johnnie Cole has loaded up on transfers with the hope of moving **Texas Southern** (4-8, 1-6) out of the SWAC basement. Quarterback Arvell Nelson, a former Iowa player, will have receiver William Osbourne (82 receptions, 1,092 yards, 7 TDs) and returning tailbacks Marcus Wright (513 yards, 7 TDs) and Lucas Caparelli as weapons. Cole will also surround returning linebackers Dejuan Fulghum and William Parker with a host of newcomers.

PREDICTIONS

EAST

1. Jackson State
2. Alabama A&M
3. Alabama State
4. Mississippi Valley State
5. Alcorn State

WEST

1. Grambling State
2. Prairie View A&M
3. Southern
4. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
5. Texas Southern

GAME TO WATCH

10/03/09 »
Prairie View A&M vs. Grambling St. @ Dallas (Cotton Bowl)

As long as the Prairie View Panthers remain title contenders, this will be the most anticipated game of the season.

FCS

DIVISION II PREVIEW

ISAAC ODIM
MINNESOTA-DULUTH

MINNESOTA-DULUTH, 2008 CHAMPIONS

COURTESY UMD ATHLETICS

Lakers should rise back to top, but don't count out a title rematch between Minnesota-Duluth and Northwest Missouri State

By Gregg Dewalt
Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily

The defining moment of the 2008 season came two weeks before Minnesota-Duluth traveled to Florence, Ala., for the Division II championship game.

It was in that quarterfinal matchup, a 19-13 double-overtime win against Grand Valley State, that the Bulldogs of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference served notice of their dominance.

What followed in the next two weeks—a 45-7 semifinal thrashing of California (Pa.) and a title-clinching 21-14 verdict against Northwest Missouri State—solidified that Minnesota-Duluth was the best team in Division II.

"Nobody saw it coming," says NSIC commissioner Butch Raymond of the championship. "We're a relatively new conference, only about 16 or 17 years old, and we hadn't won many playoff games. Initially, we were known as a basketball conference."

Credit Duluth with having a stake in changing that perception.

"To do what they did (in the playoffs)—win one home game and then win the rest of them on the road—that's pretty impressive," Raymond says. "Any time you win at Grand Valley, you have to be pretty good because they don't lose at home. That win was the highest-profile win our conference has had."

In the championship game, Duluth used its tough defense to force four turnovers and limit All-America running back LaRon Council to 99 yards and no touchdowns to secure the title.

For Northwest Missouri State, it was a familiar ending to recent seasons.

Losing the championship game in four consecutive seasons by a total of 19 points might send lesser coaches into a depression.

Not so with Northwest Missouri State's Mel Tjeerdsma, who maintains a sense of humor, even in defeat. When asked what he might have done differently after the Bearcats lost in the championship game, Tjeerdsma deadpanned, "Maybe score a few more points."

Grand Valley State and Minnesota-Duluth are expected to be in the title hunt in 2009. Will there be a December rematch? It's hard to say because too many other teams are capable of making a run similar to that of the Bulldogs' perfect season a year ago.

"Second-guessing doesn't do you any good," Tjeerdsma says. "What helps me put it aside and move on is what our team has been able to do. In football, you can't live in the past, win or lose. Our team has been able to do that."

SportingNews DIVISION II ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

- **QB ▸ BILLY CUNDIFF** (6-2, 209, SR.) ASHLAND
- **RB ▸ LaRON COUNCIL** (5-10, 210, SR.) NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE
- **RB ▸ ISAAC ODIM** (6-0, 215, JR.) MINNESOTA-DULUTH
- **WR ▸ JOHNNY SPEVAK** (6-3, 200, JR.) CENTRAL WASHINGTON
- **WR ▸ LOGAN MASTERS** (6-3, 180, SR.) WAYNE STATE (NEB.)
- **WR ▸ JEREMIAH WATTS** (6-3, 187, SR.) MERRIMACK
- **OL ▸ TONY WASHINGTON** (6-7, 300, SR.) ABILENE CHRISTIAN
- **OL ▸ J'MARCUS WEBB** (6-8, 320, SR.) WEST TEXAS A&M
- **OL ▸ JARED VELDHEER** (6-8, 311, SR.) HILLSDALE
- **OL ▸ SAM WHITNEY** (6-4, 285, SR.) MINNESOTA-DULUTH
- **OL ▸ NATE NURSE** (6-5, 295, JR.) CALIFORNIA (PA.)
- **ATH ▸ SCOTT BUISSON** (5-10 175, JR.) ARKANSAS-MONTICELLO
- **K ▸ MARK PETRO** (5-10, 190, SR.) HILLSDALE

DEFENSE

- **DL ▸ DANNY RICHARD** (6-4, 250, JR.) GRAND VALLEY STATE
- **DL ▸ MARC SCHIECHL** (6-3, 250, JR.) COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
- **DL ▸ DREW BERUBE** (6-4, 262, SR.) HILLSDALE
- **DL ▸ JAMAAL STEAMER** (6-2, 245, SR.) TARLETON STATE
- **LB ▸ LARDESTER HICKS-GREEN** (6-1, 235, SR.) DELTA STATE
- **LB ▸ MICHAEL JOHNSON** (6-4, 250, SR.) NORTH ALABAMA
- **LB ▸ JOHN JACOBS** (6-2, 230, SR.) SAGINAW VALLEY STATE
- **LB ▸ MATT FREED** (5-10, 205, JR.) EAST STROUDSBURG
- **DB ▸ COLE STRILZUK** (5-11, 190, SR.) MINNESOTA-DULUTH
- **DB ▸ MYLES BURNSIDES** (5-11, 195, SR.) NORTHWEST MISSOURI ST.
- **DB ▸ AKWASI OWUSU-ANSAH** (6-1, 190, SR.) INDIANA (PA.)
- **DB ▸ JAKE MANDELKO** (6-0, 200, SR.) NEBRASKA-KEARNEY
- **P ▸ JOHN GREGORY** (6-2, 210, SR.) TUSCULUM

Grand Valley State (11-1) was stunned in overtime at home by Minnesota-Duluth in the quarterfinals, but that doesn't mean the Lakers have spent the offseason sulking. Coach Chuck Martin has the talent to make another run at the championship, and the Lakers, as usual, are the team to beat in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Returning quarterback Brad Iciek (31 TD passes) should have a stellar running game with 1,403-yard rusher James Berezik. And defensive end Danny Richard returns after collecting 17 tackles for loss and eight sacks in 2008.

Over the past four seasons, **Northwest Missouri State** (13-2) made it to the championship, only to fall short of the school's third national title. Don't count the Bearcats out of a fifth consecutive appearance. Running back LaRon Council (1,739 rushing yards, 35 TDs) had a breakout junior campaign after replacing Xavier Omon and will again be the focal point of the offense.

In one season, **Minnesota-Duluth** (15-0) went from being the hunter to the hunted. Duluth will be hard-pressed to match last year's offensive (40.9 points per game) and defensive (11.5) numbers. Coach Bob Nielson must replace quarterback Ted Schlafke (3,018 yards, 35 TD passes), but running backs Isaac Odim and Brad Foss, who combined for 2,510 yards and 37 TDs, should ease the transition for a new signal-caller.

Delta State (12-2) will try to defend its Gulf South Conference title with two of the league's best players. Versatile running back Trevar Deed had 879 yards receiving and 608 rushing last year, while linebacker Lardester Hicks-Green finished with 100 tackles, including 15.5 for loss.

Edinboro (9-2) quarterback Trevor Harris lost his top four receivers after throwing for 2,780 yards and 26 TDs in 2008, but the nation's fifth-best scoring defense (13.1 ppg) returns seven starters. That could give the Fighting Scots the edge they need to capture the West title in a rugged Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference race.

Pittsburg State (11-2) coach Chuck Broyles must rebuild since only nine starters return. John McCoy and Zac Dickey will battle to replace All-America quarterback Mark Smith, while Western Washington transfer linebacker Caleb Jessup (128 tackles a year ago) will bolster the defense.

After ranking fourth nationally in rushing yards per game, **Bloomsburg** (11-2) won't have to change its formula with the return of running backs Derrick Price and Kenny Domzalski, who combined for 2,157 yards and 10 TDs in 2008. Quarterback Dan Latorre added 545 rushing yards and eight scores while throwing 19 TD passes.

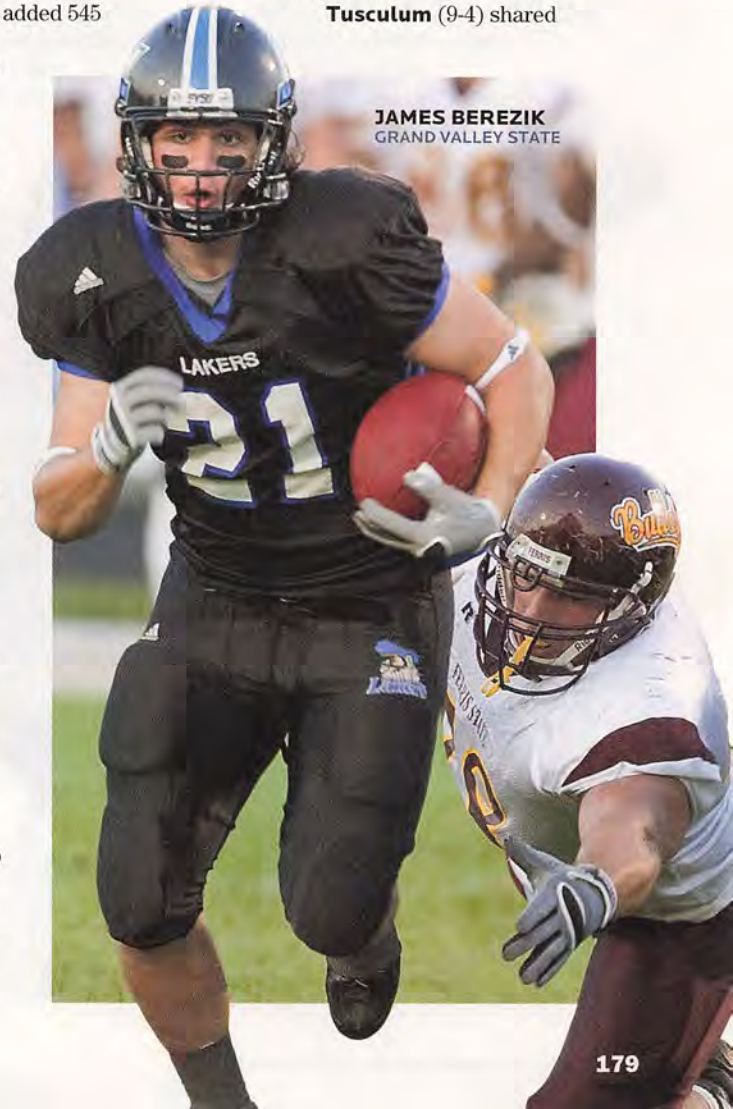
Carson-Newman (7-4) needs to figure out how to win close games. Its four losses last year were by a total of 18 points. The Eagles bring back versatile quarterback Alex Good (13 TD passes, 12 rushing TDs) and four All-South Atlantic Conference defensive players.

Central Oklahoma (7-4) won its final seven games after Brandon Noohi took over at quarterback, finishing with the school's first winning season since 2004. Noohi won five Lone Star North Player of the Week awards and finished with 1,990 passing yards and 11 TDs, while adding eight rushing scores. Defensive end Jermelle Curdjo contributed 15 tackles for loss.

Central Washington (10-2) should be the class of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference and returns All-America wide receiver Johnny Spevak, but must replace Harlon Hill Trophy runner-up quarterback Mike Reilly, who triggered an offense that scored 504 points in 2008.

Former Auburn coach Terry Bowden takes over at **North Alabama** (11-2), a 2008 playoff semifinalist that was decimated by graduation losses, including quarterback A.J. Milwee, a Harlon Hill Trophy finalist. Linebacker Michael Johnson leads what should be a formidable defense, and Bowden has promised to retool the offense with championship-caliber transfers.

Tusculum (9-4) shared



JAMES BEREZIK
GRAND VALLEY STATE

COURTESY DOUG WITTE / GVSU ATHLETICS

the SAC title with Carson-Newman last year, and with 20 returning starters, the Pioneers have a chance to make a playoff run. Receivers Ryan Tallent, Nate Binder and Jerell NeSmith combined for 208 catches, 2,568 yards and 25 TDs, but quarterback Corey Russell must be replaced.

California (Pa.) (12-2) has lost in the semifinals the past two seasons to the eventual national champions. The Vulcans will walk a difficult path if they hope to make another final four appearance with the departure of quarterback Kevin McCabe (3,214 passing yards, 32 TDs) and running back Daine Williams (1,149 yards, 11 TDs).

Ashland (9-4) won its first playoff game in school history, and with GLIAC Player of the Year Billy Cundiff (37 TD passes), the Eagles are never out of a game. How far they go this year will depend on improving a defense that gave up at least 40 points six times.

Abilene Christian (11-1) put up 93 points in a playoff win against West Texas A&M, but the top three performers—running back and Harlon Hill Trophy winner Bernard Scott, quarterback Billy Malone and wide receiver Johnny Knox—are gone. Coach Chris Thomsen returns 12 starters, but the Wildcats will be hard-pressed to replace the departing talent.

Tuskegee (10-1) had its 26-game winning streak snapped against Alabama State on a controversial call that league officials later admitted was incorrect. Moving past that and replacing quarterback Jacary Atkinson (23 TD passes, 11 rushing TDs) are the biggest challenges facing coach Willie Slater and the reigning Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference champions.

Chadron State (11-2) transitioned into the post-Danny Woodhead era (a two-time Harlon Hill Trophy winner) with another playoff season. Returning wide receivers Brandon Harrington and Isaac Stockman combined for 151 catches and 1,638 yards last year. But they'll be catching passes from a new quarterback with the graduation of Joe McLain.

Minnesota State-Mankato (9-3) should challenge Duluth for NSIC supremacy with a solid corps of returning starters that includes kick returner Kelvin Rodgers, who averaged 103.2 all-purpose yards per game in 2008. Rodgers returned two kickoffs and two punts for scores, as well as an interception. The bulk of Mankato's skill-position players also return, including quarterback Ryan Fick.

Valdosta State (9-3) has two of the best offensive players in the GSC in running back Ronnye Nelson and wide receiver Cedric Jones. But the Blazers lost incumbent quarterback Chris Hart—who will sit out this season for personal reasons—and All-America safety Sherard Reynolds, who graduated. Those losses will make it an uphill battle for the Blazers in their quest for a conference title.

PRESEASON TOP 25

1 GRAND VALLEY STATE
2 NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE
3 MINNESOTA-DULUTH
4 DELTA STATE
5 EDINBORO
6 PITTSBURG STATE
7 BLOOMSBURG
8 CARSON-NEWMAN
9 CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
10 CENTRAL WASHINGTON
11 NORTH ALABAMA
12 TUSCULUM
13 CALIFORNIA (PA.)
14 ASHLAND
15 ABILENE CHRISTIAN
16 TUSKEGEE
17 CHADRON STATE
18 MINNESOTA STATE-MANKATO
19 VALDOSTA STATE
20 NEBRASKA-KEARNEY
21 SETON HILL
22 INDIANA (PA.)
23 AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL
24 ARKANSAS TECH
25 SHAW

With 15 returning starters, including 10 on offense, **Nebraska-Kearney** (7-4) could overtake Chadron State as the premier team in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. Center Jack Hiett, a three-time All-RMAC first-team selection, anchors a veteran line that will protect quarterback Jake Spitzlberger. Kyle Kaiser is Spitzlberger's favorite target and is coming off a 1,000-yard season at receiver.

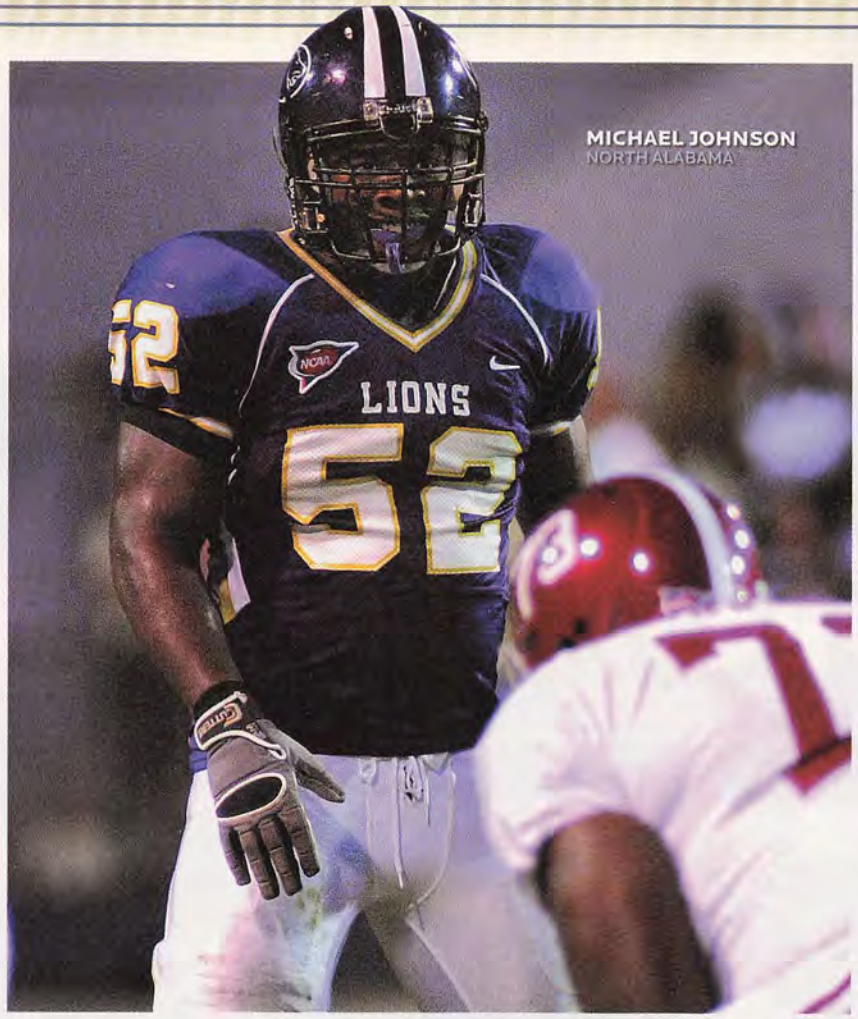
Seton Hill (10-3) won the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and a first-round playoff game before running into California (Pa.). A repeat playoff run rests on wide receiver Sammy Tranks, a third-team *AP* Little All-American who scored 12 TDs last year, including five on kickoff and punt returns.

Indiana (Pa.) (8-2) cornerback Akwasi Owusu-Ansah (8 interceptions) is the top returning player on the nation's second-best scoring defense (11.4 ppg). The Crimson Hawks' offense is in good hands as quarterback Andrew Krewatch returns after throwing for 2,449 yard and 22 TDs last year.

American International (9-2) must replace wide receiver Travis Poole and

DAN LATORRE
BLOOMSBURG

COURTESY BLOOMSBURG UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION



MICHAEL JOHNSON
NORTH ALABAMA

COURTESY MASON MATTHEWS

his 1,209 receiving yards, but returns quarterback Rob Parent, who threw 28 TD passes in 2008.

There's reason for optimism at **Arkansas Tech** (5-5), which returns 16 starters and adds University of Nevada transfer Nick Graziano at quarterback. Defensively, the top eight tacklers return for new defensive coordinator Jeff Byrd, as the Wonder Boys try to crack the upper echelon of the GSC.

Shaw (8-3) will try to defend its Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association title with a strong corps of returning offensive players that includes quarterback Travis Robinson (20 TD passes) and three running backs who combined for 1,811 yards and 19 TDs in 2008.

OTHERS TO WATCH

East

Southern Connecticut (8-3) looks to replace Northeast-10 Offensive Player of the Year John Wiechman at running back and Defensive Player of the Year Jerome Pinckney at linebacker, while **East Stroudsburg** (9-2) hopes for another standout season from *AP* Little All-America linebacker Matt Freed, who led the PSAC with 126 tackles.

Kutztown (5-6) has made steady progress under fourth-year coach Raymond Monica, and with 16 returning starters, the team could improve on last year's four league wins, which tied a school record.

Mike Lopez enters his third season as coach at **Fairmont State** (5-6), and he'll rely on wide receiver Perry Baker to provide big plays in the passing game.

Shepherd (5-5) features one of the top kick returners in Deante Steele, who ran back two punts and two kickoffs for scores in 2008.

New Haven will play its first football game since 2003 after reviving its program. The Chargers played in the 1997 NCAA Division II championship game.

Midwest

Wayne State (Neb.) (9-3) tied a school record with nine wins and returns wide receiver Logan Masters (80 catches, 1,179 yards) and linebacker Ryan Reeves, who led the NSIC with 125 tackles.

Central Missouri (7-4) sustained two last-second losses in 2008, and coach Willie Fritz is counting on several transfers to improve the team's standing in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Wayne State (8-3) tied the school record for wins and needs a big season from running back Joique Bell (who already holds five school records) to make a run at the GLIAC title.

Nebraska-Omaha (7-4) was decimated by graduation, including its backfield, receivers and linebackers, but coach Pat Behrns usually finds a way to reload.

Winona State (6-5) has one of the NSIC's top defensive backs in Lucas Wolf, who intercepted six passes in his freshman season.

Michigan Tech (8-3) owns one of the nation's best running backs in Phil Milbrath, who finished with 1,343 yards a year ago.

Ferris State (6-5) must replace defensive tackle Jake Visser, a Harlon Hill Trophy candidate, along with six other defensive starters.

South

Wingate (8-3) won seven games in a row before losing three of four, including its final two by a combined five points. Nelson Woods is the focal point on offense after rushing for 1,238 yards in 2008.

Newberry (6-4) must replace SAC Defensive Player of the Year Will Newell and revamp a running game that didn't have a tailback rush for more than 500 yards in '08.

Albany State (7-4) lost to Tusculum in the first round of the playoffs and must replace quarterback Kisan Flakes.

Arkansas-Monticello (7-4) is another GSC team on the rise. The Boll Weevils have one of the most versatile quarterbacks in the country in Scott Buisson, who rushed for 1,319 yards and threw for 2,700 last year.

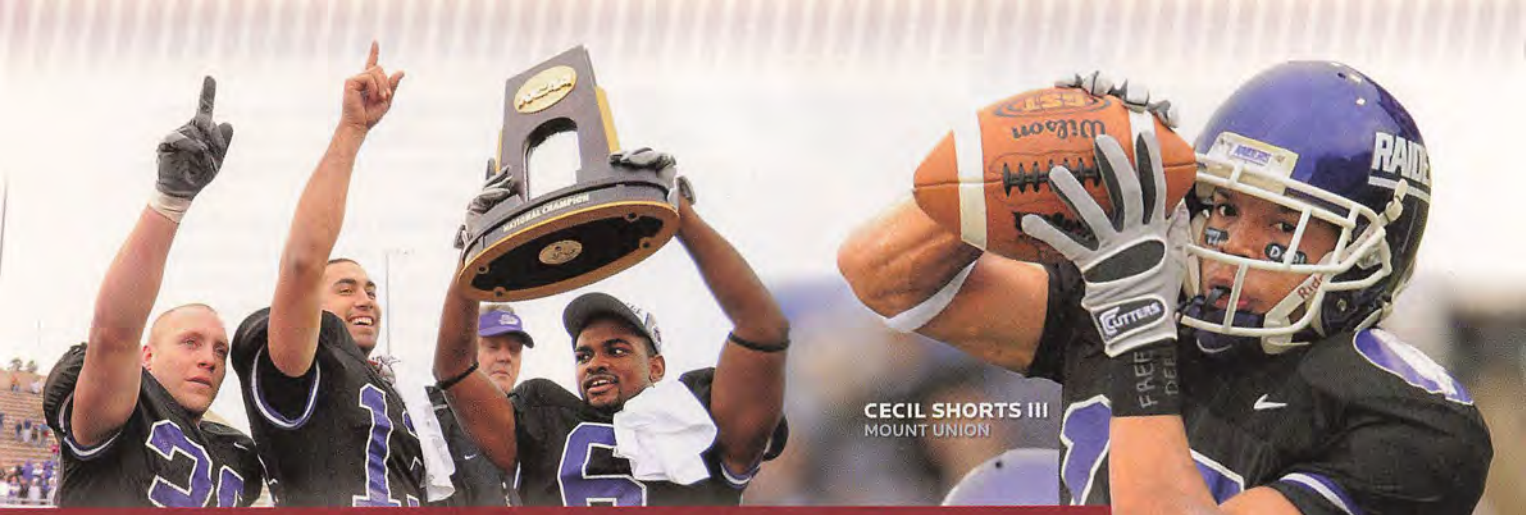
West

With 12 returning starters, **Western Oregon** (7-4) will try to overtake Central Washington in the GNAC.

All-Lone Star running back Roderick Smith (1,024 yards, 13 TDs) is **Tarleton State's** (8-3) top returning player.

GAMES TO WATCH

SEPT. 5	CARSON-NEWMAN AT NORTH ALABAMA
SEPT. 5	NEW HAVEN AT LINCOLN
SEPT. 12	NORTHWEST MISSOURI VS. PITTSBURG STATE
SEPT. 26	CHADRON STATE AT NEBRASKA-KEARNEY
OCT. 17	EDINBORO AT CALIFORNIA (PA.)
OCT. 24	GRAND VALLEY AT ASHLAND



CECIL SHORTS III
MOUNT UNION

DIVISION III PREVIEW

MOUNT UNION, 2008 CHAMPIONS

Perennial champ Mount Union can always count on two things: unrivaled community support and a target on its back

By Mike Goens
Florence (Ala.) TimesDaily

Green Bay has long been known as "Title Town, U.S.A." for the unprecedented success enjoyed by the city's NFL franchise. But Alliance, Ohio, can stake its claim to that distinction as well.

Alliance is home to Mount Union football, the NCAA Division III program that owns a little history of its own. The Purple Raiders have won 10 national championships since 1993 and were runners-up two other times during that 16-year span.

It's a run that made Mount Union the envy of collegiate athletics and the folks in Alliance swell with pride.

"You want to be there when they play, everyone does," says John Benincasa, the city council president. "What they have accomplished and what they have meant to our community has been very positive. You can go to other parts of the country, mention you're from Alliance and they know about you and your football team."

That positive recognition has had an immeasurable influence on the town of about 25,000. Alliance, once known for its manufacturing, has seen its economic backbone evaporate through the years. But one constant has been the success of Larry Kehres' football program. He has a 275-21-3 record in 24 seasons.

Kehres and his players are like rock stars in Alliance. For instance, the town holds a community night every February. Local residents fill the college's cafeteria to see a highlight film of the previous season, hear a few speeches and wait in line for hours to get autographs from their favorite players.

"He (Kehres) runs a class program and the football players are good people," Benincasa says. "They go into local schools and read to students and get involved in the community in other ways. Besides all that, they play damn good football."

Still, Mount Union will likely meet a familiar opponent at the season-ending Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl—preseason No. 1 Wisconsin-Whitewater. The two teams have played for the Division III championship in Salem, Va., for the past four seasons with the Purple Raiders winning three of the last four games, including last year.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ANDRES ALONSO / NCAA PHOTOS / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; COURTESY MOUNT UNION COLLEGE (2)

This could be the year **Wisconsin-Whitewater** (13-2) reclaims the top prize. The Warhawks are one of the most respected and feared teams thanks to the leadership of just three coaches during the past 54 years. Coach Lance Leipold is 27-3 in two seasons and has a lot of weapons returning from a team that lost a nailbiter to Mount Union in last year's title game.

Ten starters are back on offense and nine on defense. The lone offensive loss is at tackle, but five backups across the line return. The line overpowered defenses last year, opening the way for two runners to surpass the 1,000-yard plateau—Levell Coppage (1,461 yards) and Antwan Anderson (1,231). All the receivers return, as does dependable quarterback Jeff Donovan. On defense, end Anthony White and cornerback Troney Shumpert should cause trouble for opposing offenses.

Don't expect **Mount Union** (15-0) to go away despite losing some key players, especially on offense. The Raiders, who led the nation in both total offense and total defense last year, are known for quality reserves who shine when called on.

Cecil Shorts III (77 catches, 1,484 yards, 23 TDs) is as good as it gets at wide receiver. Vince Petruziello and A.J. Claycomb are also receiving threats, while four starters are back on the offensive line. The key will be the play of quarterback Kurt Rocco and running back Scott Panchik, both of whom will try and fill the shoes of All-America players.

On defense, where nine starters return, James Herbert (15 sacks) dominates up front and Matt Williamson brings strength to the line, while linebacker Sam Kershaw and safety Drew McClain are big-play performers.

St. John's (Minn.) (8-3) had an average 2008—an 8-3 record is good for most teams but below the standard set by John Gagliardi during his legendary 60 years in coaching. Boasting a 461-125-11 mark, he will coach his 600th game Sept. 19.

The Johnnies have 14 starters back. The defense will be among the nation's best and gets a lift with the return of lineman Nick Gunderson, who missed all but one game last year with an injury. Linebacker Ethan Eid, cornerback Dominic Haik, safety Bobby Klint and linebacker Ryan Wimmer have all-star credentials. The offense will lean on four returning linemen and quarterback Joe Boyle. Watch for receiver Ben Vanderheyden to have a big year, too.

Mary Hardin-Baylor (12-2) has been among the nation's elite in recent years and that won't change this season. The Cru have won or shared seven of the past eight American Southwest Conference titles and return six starters on both offense and defense.

To continue its success, the team will need to replace three offensive linemen and a quarterback. Kyle Noack, who started four games last year, will likely win the job at signal-caller. The running game, led by Quincy Daniels (injured much of last season) and Bryson Tucker will be solid, while Pi'Dadro Davis leads the receivers. Linebackers Jeremy Salinas and Ben Beckworth and cornerback Brett Parker are superb on defense.

Keep an eye on **Delaware Valley** (8-3), which has a vast arsenal, particularly on offense. Quarterback Mike Isgro passed for 1,787 yards and 21 touchdowns and ran for another 366 yards last year. He is considered a leader who does whatever it takes to get the job done. Running back Matt Cook, who rushed for 1,323 yards, is also a threat.

The defense is led by linebacker Kyle Gresswein, who had 105 tackles and 11.5 sacks last year. Cornerback Charles Squitiere and lineman Derek Porter are other defensive standouts.

Don't look now, but **Rowan** (8-2) appears ready to leap back into contention for national honors. The Profs, who appeared in five of seven national championship games in the 1990s, have 10 starters returning on offense and seven on defense. Quarterback Frank Wilczynski passed for 1,471 yards and led the team with 803 rushing yards last season, while Ken Siano and Josh Weiss lead the offensive line. On defense, expect big plays from linebackers Drew Yezzi and Kevin Taylor and lineman Kyle Kane.

If **Hardin-Simmons** (9-2) gets consistent line play on offense, the Cowboys will be hard to beat. Returning quarterback Justin Feaster threw for 3,023 yards, 31 touchdowns and only eight interceptions in 2008. ZaVious Robbins will be the top receiver and is a threat in the return game. The defense is expected to shine with eight starters back. Linebackers Shelton Rainey and Ricky Poe and end Hank Hornsby anchor the front seven, while Michael Tracy and Anthony McKnight are superb in the secondary.

North Central (11-1) looks to take another step toward the top rung of the Division III ladder after winning its third

JEFF DONOVAN
WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER

ANDRES ALONSO / NCAA PHOTOS / AP WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

PRESEASON TOP 25

1 ▸ WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER
2 ▸ MOUNT UNION
3 ▸ ST. JOHN'S (MINN.)
4 ▸ MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR
5 ▸ DELAWARE VALLEY
6 ▸ ROWAN
7 ▸ HARDIN-SIMMONS
8 ▸ NORTH CENTRAL
9 ▸ WARTBURG
10 ▸ WABASH
11 ▸ MONMOUTH
12 ▸ CURRY
13 ▸ WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON
14 ▸ CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT
15 ▸ WESLEY
16 ▸ BRIDGEWATER (VA.)
17 ▸ HOBART
18 ▸ JOHNS HOPKINS
19 ▸ WHEATON (ILL.)
20 ▸ CASE WESTERN
21 ▸ CORTLAND
22 ▸ REDLANDS
23 ▸ WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE
24 ▸ LYCOMING
25 ▸ OTTERBEIN

FRANK WILCZYNSKI
ROWAN

COURTESY ROWAN UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION

straight conference crown and returning to the playoffs for the fourth straight time. The Cardinals have their key leaders back, including seven starters on both sides of the ball.

Aaron Fanthorpe is a double threat at quarterback (2,145 passing yards and 383 rushing). Running back Dominic Sulo rushed for 1,070 yards and 11 touchdowns, and receiver Steve Hlavac had 54 receptions in 2008. Linebacker Matt Wenger (137 tackles, 8 INTs) and cornerback Derek Sulo should again stand out on defense.

After advancing to the national quarterfinals last season, **Wartburg** (10-3) has its eyes on something better. Quarterback Nick Yordi (3,036 passing yards) is capable of dominating defenses. Center Morgan O'Connor leads up front, but a go-to receiver must emerge. The keys will be finding defensive leaders and stabilizing the kicking game.

Wabash (10-2) is in good shape. Quarterback Matt Hudson (3,135 yards, 29 TDs) provides the leadership needed on offense. His top target, Kody LeMond (73 catches, 1,228 yards), also returns. Kick-return specialist Wes Chamblee is a weapon, as is kicker Spencer Whitehead. Linebacker Bryan Watson is the defensive leader for the Little Giants.

Monmouth (11-1) led the country in scoring last year with nearly 47 points a game and has 10 offensive starters back from that unit, including quarterback Alex Tanney and offensive linemen Josh Kotecki and Dan Schwindenhammer. The top gun on defense is end Anthony Goranson.

For the past six seasons, **Curry** (10-2) has been a constant in the playoffs and should be a solid contender again with seven starters back on offense and eight on defense. Linebacker Scott Driscoll returns after being named the New England Football Conference's Most Valuable Defensive Player last year. Defensive tackle Curtis Ushry is a disruptive force up front.

Known for its passing attack, **Washington & Jefferson** (11-2) will likely be more balanced this year, as big things are expected from running back Derek Taylor. The Presidents must replace a standout quarterback and three starters on the offensive line. Receiver Craig Besong (75 catches for 1,186 yards) is as good as anyone in D3, and you can expect quarterback Steven Shumaker to lean on him. The team's defense, with seven starters back, will carry the team early.

Christopher Newport (8-2) has made the playoffs in each of the last six years and there's plenty of experience returning—nine starters on defense and six on offense. The Captains have one of the country's best running backs in Tunde Ogun (1,794 yards, 16 TDs). He topped 200 yards in four consecutive games in 2008.

Wesley (9-2) has posted 45 wins the past four years and looks to be solid again in its bid for a fifth straight playoff appearance. There are 13 starters back, including dominant defensive lineman Mike Ward. Safety Aaron Benson is another standout defender. Quarterback Shane McSweeny is efficient and dangerous, but will need a couple of receivers to step up.

Failing is not something **Bridgewater** (4-6) is accustomed to, so expect the Eagles to rebound from their first losing season since 1998. There is plenty of speed among the nine returning offensive starters. Tyler Bieler is a deep receiving threat and will benefit from a better quarterback. Leading tackler T.J. Montague returns along with defensive lineman Austin Icaza.

Hobart (9-2) is looking for its eighth playoff appearance since 2000 and its defense should lead the way. Cornerback Drake Woodard (7 INTs) is among seven returning starters on the unit. The Statesmen have good talent returning on offense, but Doug Vella is the only player with any experience at quarterback.

Youth prevailed at **Johns Hopkins** (8-3) last year as the team reached the eight-win mark for the fifth time in seven years. Nine returning offensive players are part of a group that accounted for 4,122 of the team's 4,158 yards and all 34 touchdowns. Running back Andrew Kase rushed for 1,635 yards and 17 touchdowns last year. If the defense holds together, it could be a big year for the Blue Jays.

Wheaton (Ill.) (11-3) was tough to handle last season. It should be more of the same in '09, with a balanced offensive attack led by Rocky Gingg (1,290 rushing yards) and Sean Norris (3,137 passing yards, 32 TDs). The defense must step forward, however.

The largest senior class in 25 years returns at **Case Western** (10-1), where the Spartans hope to build on a 21-game regular-season win streak. Quarterback Dan Whalen (2,192 yards, 17 TDs) is among nine offensive starters who return. His No. 1 target will be Shaun Nicely. Seven starters are back on defense, including cornerback Bobby Bott (7 INTs) and lineman Dale English (14 tackles for loss).

Cortland (11-2) seems to have earned the respect it has been searching for, as no one is discounting the

GAMES TO WATCH

- SEPT. 19 ▸ ROWAN AT CORTLAND
- OCT. 3 ▸ MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR AT HARDIN-SIMMONS
- OCT. 17 ▸ WITTENBERG AT WABASH
- OCT. 24 ▸ DELAWARE VALLEY AT LYCOMING
- OCT. 24 ▸ WHEATON AT NORTH CENTRAL
- OCT. 24 ▸ TRINITY AT DEPAUW
- OCT. 31 ▸ WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER AT WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT
- NOV. 7 ▸ CENTRAL AT WARTBURG
- NOV. 14 ▸ WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER AT WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE

SportingNews DIVISION III ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

- QB ▸ **ALEX TANNEY** (6-4, 190, JR.) MONMOUTH
- RB ▸ **TUNDE OGUN** (6-0, 220, SR.) CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT
- RB ▸ **DERON BROWN** (5-8, 190, SR.) MIT
- WR ▸ **CECIL SHORTS III** (6-0, 180, SR.) MOUNT UNION
- WR ▸ **PATRICK O'CONNOR** (6-1, 190, SR.) DICKINSON
- WR ▸ **KODY LEMOND** (5-11, 166, JR.) WABASH
- OL ▸ **JOSH KOTECKI** (6-1, 245, SR.) MONMOUTH
- OL ▸ **BLAINE WESTEMEYER** (6-5, 280, SR.) AUGUSTANA
- OL ▸ **MATT FERGUSON** (6-5, 300, SR.) WESLEY
- OL ▸ **JOSH OSTRUE** (6-4, 285, SR.) ST. THOMAS
- OL ▸ **JOSH SHIVERS** (6-1, 278, SR.) MILLSAPS
- TE ▸ **ZACH FRIEDRICH** (6-3, 175, SR.) GREENVILLE
- K ▸ **JEFF SCHEBLER** (6-0, 182, SR.) WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER

DEFENSE

- DL ▸ **MARCUS BALL** (6-1, 220, SR.) WISCONSIN-STOUT
- DL ▸ **GERRARD BRYANT** (6-0, 240, SR.) ST. LAWRENCE
- DL ▸ **JAMES HERBERT** (6-1, 224, SR.) MOUNT UNION
- DL ▸ **NICK GUNDERSON** (6-4, 270, SR.) ST. JOHN'S
- LB ▸ **KYLE GESSWIN** (6-2, 219, JR.) DELAWARE VALLEY
- LB ▸ **MATT WEGNER** (5-11, 220, SR.) NORTH CENTRAL
- LB ▸ **RANDY WRIGHT** (6-1, 215, JR.) ELMHURST
- LB ▸ **BRAD STEINMETZ** (6-0, 224, SR.) THOMAS MORE
- DB ▸ **DRAKE WOODARD** (5-11, 165, SO.) HOBART
- DB ▸ **BOBBY BOTT** (6-1, 190, SR.) CASE WESTERN
- DB ▸ **TRONEY SHUMPERT** (5-8, 165, SR.) WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER
- DB ▸ **TOM TASSINARI** (6-3, 210, SR.) TUFTS
- P ▸ **KURTIS BRONDYKE** (6-3, 190, JR.) CENTRAL

Red Dragons even though all starters must be replaced on offense. Dan Pitcher, a transfer from Colgate, can provide stability as he steps in at quarterback. Cory Russell is expected to be a strong running threat.

Defensively, the Dragons have six starters back, including linebacker Brian Haas (102 tackles) and cornerback D.J. Romano (5 INTs).

Thanks to 17 returning starters, **Redlands** (7-2) is a team to watch. The list of returnees includes quarterback Dan Selway, the Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's 2007 Player of the Year, who missed much of last season with a broken foot. Brenden Barkate and Sean Scott are both solid receiving threats, and eight starters return from a defense that is stingy against the run.

After a subpar 2008, **Wisconsin-La Crosse** (3-7) appears on the verge of returning to national prominence. The Eagles have 550 wins and two national championships. Sixteen starters return, including key players in quarterback Nick Anker, tailback Reid Oldenburg and center Andrew Gebel. Defensively, cornerbacks Derek Dreher and Matt Winney will be counted on, as will linebacker Aaron Johnson.

Lycoming (7-4) is another team trying to recapture glory. Replacing four offensive linemen will be crucial, but quarterback Colin Dwyer, tailback Josh Kleinfelter and receivers Ryan Wagaman and Brad Shellenberger can deliver. Linemen Ted Geurds and Kyle Murren and safety Chuck Bellitto will lead a defense that returns seven starters.

The best team behind Mount Union in the Ohio Athletic Conference is always strong, and **Otterbein** (9-2) has a chance to play that role this season. After making its first playoff appearance last year, the '09 campaign could rest on whether quarterback Jack Rafferty returns. He has a year of eligibility remaining but has graduated. Rafferty threw for 22 touchdowns and rushed for seven others last season. The running game will be solid with Colton Coy, and receiver Ryan Rowley had 56 catches last year.

OTHERS TO WATCH

East

Quarterback Tim Bailey (2,609 yards, 21 TDs) could make **St. John Fisher** (7-4) a contender.

Ithaca (9-2) has eight starters back on defense and running back Thomas Bergerstock (1,240 yards) returns on offense.

Montclair State (8-3) has a lot of experience on offense in Jeff Bliss (1,053 rushing yards) and kicker Marco Capozzoli, and the defense returns safety Mario McLean and lineman Chris Merkle.

Salisbury (9-2), led by lineman Chris Hutton and running back Bryan Woolson, will be one of the favorites in the Eastern College Athletic Conference.

Rensselaer (8-2) will be in business with the return of all five offensive linemen, its top running back and three of its top receivers, led by Patrick McCarthy. Linebacker Stefan Schulz is one of seven starting defenders back.

Patrick O'Connor should be one of the nation's top receivers in 2009 and could lead **Dickinson** (6-4) back to the playoffs.

Finding a quarterback to complement talented receiver Felipe Diaz will be important for **Brockport** (7-4).

Lebanon Valley (6-4), with running back Charlie Parker among 16 starters back in 2009, could be a surprise.

Midwest

Wisconsin-Stevens Point (9-2) could have a say in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference race with UW-Whitewater and UW-La Crosse. Quarterback Jared Beckwith (2,461 yards, 16 TDs) and his go-to receiver, Jared Jenkins (83 catches, 912 yards), return.

Franklin (11-2) has work to do in replacing 15 starters, but four of the returnees are on the offensive line, including tackle Seth Qualls and center Chad Schenkel. Linebackers Nick Cochran and Joe Rush will lead the defense.

Quarterback Spud Dick (2,896 yards, 25 TDs) and receiver Alex Koors (55 catches, 926 yards) will make **DePauw** (8-2) a threat.

Aurora (9-2) will try to repeat its playoff season but must replace three starters on the offensive line.

Central (6-4) has not had a losing season since 1960 and the Dutch are likely to rebound from last year's dip. Nate Snead is ready to go at quarterback and looks prepared to lead the team, as does all-purpose player Jarred Lackey.

A young **Baldwin-Wallace** (5-5) team lost several close games last year but will have potent returning weapons in quarterback Anthony Gardner, running back Kyrell Crook and three receivers with double-digit catches.

South

Earning a playoff spot came as a surprise to **Randolph-Macon** (6-5) last year, but the Yellow Jackets are expected to be strong this season with 16 starters returning, including Zak Thornton (1,249 rushing yards).

Union (5-4) could surprise opponents with running back Chris Coney (1,283 yards, 18 TDs).

Another team to keep an eye on is **Mississippi College** (5-5). The Choctaws have quarterback Adam Shaffer back from injury and tailback Desmond Mays (1,137 yards) will be on hand as well.

West

Cal Lutheran's (7-2) defense, led by cornerback Victor Edwards, could keep the team in contention in the SCIAC.

Linfield (6-3) has three starters on the offensive line and quarterback Aaron Boehme is back from injury.

Standout receiver Greg Ford makes **Pacific Lutheran** (3-6) a threat.

NAIA PREVIEW

TOP 10

1. Sioux Falls (S.D.)
2. Carroll (Mont.)
3. Lindenwood (Mo.)
4. Morningside (Iowa)
5. St. Francis (Ind.)
6. MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.)
7. Baker (Kan.)
8. Friends (Kan.)
9. Lambuth (Tenn.)
10. Ohio Dominican

Annual NAIA dance will feature familiar partners

By Tyler Nelson, *Sporting News*

Last year's National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics title game wouldn't have ended any other way. Since 2002, the national championship has featured either Sioux Falls or Carroll.

So when the two met for the title last December, there was little surprise. In sloppy, rainy conditions, Sioux Falls avenged a 2007 championship game loss to Carroll, winning last season's bout 23-7 and earning its third title in school history.

As the two final teams line up in the 54th NAIA title game Dec. 19 in Rome, Ga., look for the usual suspects, Sioux Falls and Carroll, to be in the mix.

Sioux Falls (S.D.) steamrolled its way to perfection in 2008 with a potent offense (36.5 points per game) and a defensive juggernaut that shut out its opponents seven times.

As for this season, coach Kalen DeBoer has the pieces in place for a title repeat. Sioux Falls returns 17 starters, including senior quarterback Lorenzo Brown and senior offensive lineman T.J. Wendt.

The defense will be bolstered by three junior-college linebackers: Cameron Covey, Steven Kala and Alexander Morales.

Carroll (Mont.) will have to set its sights on a sixth national title and 10th straight Frontier Conference crown without one of the best defenders in school history, Owen Koeppen. The two-time All-America linebacker claimed NAIA Player of the Year last season. Linebacker Mac Gordon (66 tackles) will take the reins of an inexperienced defense.

The Fighting Saints do return quarterback Gary Wagner, who broke his left ankle two games into 2008.

With so many holes on offense, **Lindenwood** (Mo.) will rely on its stout defense to make a run at the NAIA title game—a year after the school's first-ever semifinal appearance.

The Lions return their top seven tacklers, including cornerback Brandon Gould (team-high 78 tackles) and linebacker Logen Wright (77).

Quarterback Tim Richard has a big pair of shoes to fill at **Morningside** (Iowa), as he steps in for Ian Gilworth (3,130 yards, 41 TDs). Richard will throw to receiver Beau Kidlow (977 receiving yards).

With 12 returning starters, coach Kevin Donley and **St. Francis** (Ind.) has a chance to make its seventh straight trip to the semifinals of the NAIA playoffs. Running back Daniel Carter leads the returnees after scoring 20 touchdowns in 2008.

If first-year coach Jonathan Quinn wants to defend **MidAmerica Nazarene's** (Kan.) Heart of America Athletic Conference title, he'll rely on running back Ashford Johnson, whose transition to a starting spot will be eased with the return of four All-HAAC linemen.

Thanks to arguably the best skill-position players in the nation and landing highly touted junior-college transfers, **Baker** (Kan.) has a good shot at taking the HAAC crown. Quarterback Mack Brown, a former Colorado Buffalo, threw for 3,185 yards and 22 TDs in 2008.

Coach Monty Lewis looks to claim **Friends** (Kan.) another Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference title. Whoever replaces quarterback Alex Melguin will benefit from the return of running back Chris Bolander and fullback Brent Craddock.

In his debut last season, coach Hugh Freeze led **Lambuth** (Tenn.) to its first playoff appearance in five years. Projected sophomore starting quarterback Adam Wiese (1,108 passing yards, 14 TDs) saw ample playing time as a backup in '08.

Ohio Dominican will look to rebound without two-time All-America quarterback Cris Reisert, who owns 10 NAIA offensive records.

TOP RETURNING STAT LEADERS FROM 2008

OFFENSE

PASSING

	YR	G	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT	RATING
Dane Broadhead, Carroll (Mont.)	SO	11	184	120	1562	17	6	160.5
Adam Wiese, Lambuth (Tenn.)	SO	12	141	88	1108	14	5	154.1
Chris White, Missouri Valley	JR	10	231	134	2138	18	9	153.7

RUSHING

	YR	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
A.J. Cooley, Shorter (Ga.)	SR	12	261	1558	6.0	21	129.8
Tanner Ehrlich, Black Hills State (S.D.)	JR	10	174	1163	6.7	9	116.3
Terence Pollock, Union (Ky.)	SR	12	234	1331	5.7	11	110.4

RECEPTIONS

	YR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC/G
Mark Schlueter, Dana (Neb.)	JR	11	112	1075	8	10.2
Bubba Slaba, Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.)	SR	10	76	1046	8	7.6
Bryce Burton, Rocky Mountain (Mont.)	SR	11	84	861	3	7.6

SCORING

	YR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Daniel Carter, St. Francis (Ind.)	SR	13	25	0	0	150	11.5
A.J. Cooley, Shorter (Ga.)	SR	12	21	0	0	128	10.7
Ryan Van Dalen, William Penn (Iowa)	SR	11	18	0	0	110	10.0

DEFENSE

TACKLES

	YR	G	SOLO	AST	TOTAL
Sean Thom, Faulkner (Ala.)	SR	11	56	101	157
Jon Culbertson, West Virginia Tech	SO	11	35	100	135
P.J. Hughes, Cumberlands (Ky.)	SR	12	50	85	135

SACKS

	YR	G	NO	YDS
Anens Stevens, Edward Waters (Fla.)	SO	9	16.0	50
Lantz Mathers, Northwestern Oklahoma State	SR	9	11.0	79
Paul Klaboe, Montana Tech	JR	11	11.0	58

INTERCEPTIONS

	YR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT/G
Ken Mitchell, Kansas Wesleyan	JR	9	7	87	2	0.8
Cole Perry, Friends (Kan.)	SO	11	8	52	0	0.7
Tom Lunzman, S.D. School of Mines & Tech	JR	10	6	111	0	0.6

SportingNews NAIA ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE

- **QB** Lorenzo Brown (6-0, 195, Sr.) Sioux Falls (S.D)
- **RB** A.J. Cooley (6-2, 210, Sr.) Shorter (Ga.)
- **RB** Dan Carter (5-7, 160, Sr.) St. Francis (Ind.)
- **OL** Matt Sutton (6-3, 315, Sr.) St. Ambrose (Iowa)
- **OL** Cale Fischer (6-3, 280, Sr.) Northwestern Oklahoma State
- **OL** T.J. Wendt (6-2, 308, Sr.) Sioux Falls (S.D.)
- **OL** Steven Dawley (6-1, 274, Jr.) William Penn (Iowa)
- **OL** Jeff Hynes (6-1, 303, Sr.) Lindenwood (Mo.)
- **TE** Taylor Burnett (6-5, 230, Sr.) Ottawa (Kan.)
- **WR** Beau Kildow (5-10, 190, Sr.) Morningside (Iowa)
- **WR** Jason Lovett (5-11, 195, Sr.) Virginia-Wise
- **K** Kyle Chilton (5-11, 170, Sr.) Pikeville (Ky.)

DEFENSE

- **DL** Mike Hartley (6-2, 245, Sr.) Sioux Falls (S.D)
- **DL** Lantz Mathers (6-0, 236, Sr.) Northwestern Oklahoma State
- **DL** Anens Stevens (6-3, 220, So.) Edward Waters (Fla.)
- **DL** Alphaeus Williams (6-0, 203, Sr.) Baker (Kan.)
- **LB** Mike Lally (6-0, 225, Sr.) Saint Xavier (Ill.)
- **LB** Logan Lollis (6-2, 230, Sr.) Shorter (Ga.)
- **LB** Cameron Willkomm (6-0, 240, Sr.) Graceland (Iowa)
- **DB** Ken Mitchell (5-11, 180, Jr.) Kansas Wesleyan
- **DB** Grant Mosier (5-11, 185, Sr.) Northwestern (Iowa)
- **DB** Tom Lunzman (6-2, 200, Jr.) S.D. School of Mines & Tech
- **DB** Antonio Wardlow (6-0, 177, Sr.) Bethel (Tenn.)
- **P** Nick Tolsma (6-1, 194, Sr.) Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.)

JUNIOR COLLEGE
TALENT POOL RUNNETH OVER

Four-year universities are increasingly tapping the junior-college pipeline

By **Tony Jimenez**
Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal

If you look at the recruiting classes of the country's dominant college teams, it's obvious coaches know the high caliber of athletes junior-college programs produce. After all, the LSUs and USCs of the world reel in juco players with regularity.

"The caliber of a juco player was good 10 years ago and it's good now," Oklahoma recruiting coordinator Cale Gundy says. "If we have a need for an older and more mature player and have a certain need, we'll go after them. The key is getting the right fit for your system."

Nebraska recruiting coordinator Ted Gilmore believes players from two-year schools are great if the program needs a seasoned talent who will make an impact right away.

"You want them for immediate help, to fill a void quickly," Gilmore says. "You, for sure, don't want them sitting; you want them playing."

Some athletes sign with junior colleges hoping to make names for themselves. For players like Butte Community College quarterback Jordan Rodgers—whose brother, Aaron, plays for the Green Bay Packers and is a former star for Butte and Cal—it's a way to maximize talent. Some four-year schools have built pipelines to junior colleges with the "sign-and-place" route. A talented player can hit the books and develop while the juco coach guides him back to the four-year school.

Whatever the case, colleges such as Butler County Community College in Kansas are preparing players for the next step while building nationally acclaimed junior-college programs. In nine years at Butler, coach Troy Morrell has sent 125 players to Football Bowl Subdivision programs.

"Some players may look at it as a step down, but when they get here they quickly realize that they are really a part of a D-I talent pool," Morrell says.

Mississippi Gulf Coast coach Steve Campbell contends that at least 25 Southeastern Conference-caliber players annually make pit stops at his state's 14 junior colleges before moving on—a list that includes one of his former players, Alabama nose guard Terrence Cody.

"JC players jump-start or fill some big holes for a lot of programs," Campbell says.

And it's not just the big boys that live off the feeder ranks.

"The top Southern D2 schools live on juco players," Butte coach Jeff Jordan says. "You can look at the rosters of four-year schools and see the significance of the junior-college programs. When players come here they know it's a chance for them to be seen and to get recruited."

VIC BALLARD
Mississippi Gulf Coast CC

COURTESY MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST CC SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

TOP 10

1. Grossmont CC (Calif.)
2. Butler County CC (Kan.)
3. Mississippi Gulf Coast CC
4. Mount San Antonio College (Calif.)
5. Butte CC (Calif.)
6. College of the Canyons (Calif.)
7. Snow College (Utah)
8. Navarro College (Texas)
9. El Camino CC (Calif.)
10. Ellsworth CC (Iowa)

TOP JUCOS MOVING ON

OFFENSE	POS.	HT.	WT.	JUCO (2009 SCHOOL)
Terrance Cain	QB	6-1	190	Blinn, Texas (Utah)
Leonard Mason	RB	6-0	215	College of the Desert, Calif. (Colorado State)
Lamon Muldrow	RB	5-9	210	Sierra, Calif. (San Jose State)
James Carpenter	OL	6-5	305	Coffeyville, Kan. (Alabama)
Joe Evinger	OL	6-7	340	College of the Canyons, Calif. (Louisville)
Anthony Morgan	OL	6-4	325	Navarro, Texas (Oklahoma State)
Ben Schoenberger	OL	6-5	290	Mississippi Gulf Coast (Southern Miss)
Danny Watkins	OL	6-5	310	Butte, Calif. (Baylor)
Peter Tuitupou	TE	6-4	255	Snow, Utah (Washington State)
Tyrece Gaines	WR	6-3	210	Butler County, Kan. (Oregon)
Joshua Bellamy	WR	6-2	195	Butte, Calif. (Iowa State)

DEFENSE	POS.	HT.	WT.	JUCO (2009 SCHOOL)
James Aiono	DL	6-3	282	Snow, Utah (Utah)
Hebron Fangupo	DL	6-2	330	Mount San Antonio, Calif. (USC)
Eugene Kinlaw	DL	6-2	294	Hutchinson, Kan. (Troy)
Pernell McPhee	**DL**	**6-4**	**260**	**Itawamba, Miss. (Mississippi State)**
Bryson Littlejohn	LB	6-0	235	Sierra, Calif. (Oregon)
Josh Tatum	LB	6-0	240	City College of San Francisco (Missouri)
Tony Straughter	LB	6-1	215	Georgia Military (South Carolina)
Rudell Crim	DB	6-0	190	Butler County, Kan. (Arkansas)
Coryell Judie	DB	5-11	190	Fort Scott, Kan. (Texas A&M)
Anthony Leon	DB	6-4	230	College of the Sequoias, Calif. (Arkansas)
Taikwon Paige	DB	5-10	175	Georgia Military (Auburn)

SPECIALISTS	POS.	HT.	WT.	JUCO (2009 SCHOOL)
Jacob Harfman	K	5-10	200	Mount San Antonio, Calif. (USC)
Derek Helton	P	6-1	180	Fort Scott, Kan. (LSU)
Travis Cobb	RET	5-11	185	Blinn, Texas (Arizona)
Cameron Kenny	AP	6-2	195	Garden City, Kan. (Oklahoma)

OTHERS	POS.	HT.	WT.	JUCO (2009 SCHOOL)
B.J. Bell	DE	6-4	245	Santa Ana, Calif. (UNLV)
Leon Berry	WR	6-1	185	East Mississippi (Mississippi State)
Brandon Bogotay	K	6-2	190	Grossmont, Calif. (Georgia)
Sean Brauchle	K	5-9	175	Mississippi Gulf Coast (Mississippi State)
Aaron Brown	DB	6-1	210	Saddleback, Calif. (Hawaii)
Jacky Candy	FS	6-1	200	Coffeyville, Kan. (Houston)
Hayo Carpenter	WR	5-11	185	College of the Canyons, Calif. (Minnesota)
Ryan Clark	DB	6-1	195	Navarro, Texas (SMU)
Erik Dahl	OL	6-2	285	Butler County, Kan. (Missouri State)
Dean Deleone	DE	6-2	245	Orange Coast, Calif. (Arizona State)
Josh Dickerson	LB	6-2	220	Georgia Military (South Carolina)
DeQuin Evans	DE	6-2	275	Los Angeles Harbor (Kentucky)
Tevita Finau	DE	6-5	275	Phoenix, Ariz. (West Virginia)
Adam Froman	QB	6-4	225	Santa Rosa, Calif. (Louisville)
Dejon Gomes	CB	6-0	190	City College of San Francisco (Nebraska)
Alex Green	RB	6-2	215	Butte, Calif. (Hawaii)
Edwin Herbert	DT	6-3	295	City College of San Francisco (Florida)
Akiem Hicks	DT	6-6	300	Sacramento City, Calif. (LSU)
Jonathan Hollins	DT	6-3	275	College of the Canyons, Calif. (Arizona)
Brandon Kinnie	WR	6-3	218	Fort Scott, Kan. (Nebraska)
Andrew Iupati	DT	6-1	295	Golden West, Calif. (Oregon)
Daniel Mafoe	OG	6-3	305	El Camino, Calif. (Washington)
Jonathan Massaquoi	DE	6-4	240	Butler County, Kan. (Troy)
Chris Matthews	WR	6-5	210	Los Angeles Harbor (Kentucky)
Jason Pierre-Paul	DE	6-6	265	Fort Scott, Kan. (South Florida)
Jarred Price	LB	5-10	215	Blinn, Texas (California)
Donnie Pritchett	DE	6-5	260	Santa Rosa, Calif. (Fresno State)
Brandon Rankin	DL	6-4	250	Butte, Calif. (Washington State)
Darius Reynolds	QB	6-3	190	Reedley, Calif. (Iowa State)
Calvin Rubles	DB	6-2	190	Tyler, Texas (Kansas)
Laron Scott	DB	5-9	180	Butler County, Kan. (Georgia Southern)
Andre Simmons	WR	6-3	200	Independence, Kan. (Colorado)
Travis Stephens	DT	6-3	265	Blinn, Texas (Kansas)
Press Taylor	QB	6-2	200	Butler County, Kan. (Marshall)
Ryan Taylor	OC	6-4	290	Tyler, Texas (UCLA)
Andrew Tiller	OL	6-6	320	Nassau, N.Y. (Syracuse)
Jeff Vinson	OL	6-8	350	Lackawanna, Pa. (Oklahoma)
Myles Wade	DT	6-2	310	Arizona Western (Texas Tech)
Kevious Watkins	OL	6-5	340	Georgia Military (South Carolina)
Roy Watts	OL	6-6	300	Navarro, Texas (Houston)
Chris White	LB	6-4	230	Mississippi Gulf Coast (Mississippi State)
Quintin Woods	DE	6-6	245	Bakersfield, Calif. (Kansas)

1 GROSSMONT CC *(Calif.) (5-5 in '08)*

With 15 returning starters (8 on offense, 7 on defense) and a deep bench, Grossmont is a team that can rebound after a down year. The Griffins will look to win in the trenches thanks to some outstanding talent. Quarterback Brandon Fricke will be protected by tackles Juan Bolanos (6-7, 330 pounds) and Charles Wiley (6-6, 290) and center Billy Dawson (6-2, 300). Nose guard Yun Ta'ala and ends Ja'Rodd Watson and Mikaele Vaimasanuu will make the line just as tough on the other side of the ball.

2 BUTLER COUNTY CC *(Kan.) (11-1)*

Only a handful of starters return, including defensive tackles Jovanta Boyd and Jeffrey Thompson, linebacker Forlando Johnson and offensive lineman DeShawn Smith. But don't be misled. While that group should be the heart of the team, Butler County always boasts marquee freshmen who quickly adapt to the next level. Running back Kwamaine Brown (5-10, 190) and receiver Dontel Watkins (6-5, 205) will be the freshmen to watch.

3 MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST CC *(10-2)*

The Bulldogs closed 2008 with a bang, pounding their final four opponents by a combined score of 182-29. What makes the feat more impressive is that two of the teams (Mississippi jucos Jones County JC and Pearl River CC) were in the National Junior College Athletic Association Top 10 at some point in the season. Mississippi Gulf Coast has finished in the NCJAA's top 10 the past four years, with a 12-0 mark in '07. The 'Dogs are centering their hopes this season around quarterback Greg Jenkins, running back Vic Ballard, receiver Kelvin Bolden, free safety Dameon Jackson and defensive linemen James Carmon and Wayne Dorsey.

4 MOUNT SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE *(Calif.) (12-2)*

Behind a high-scoring offense (599 points), the Mounties were sensational last season. Now Mount San Antonio is looking for revenge after falling to Butte in the California Community College Athletic Association title game. Quarterback Nick Lamaison will look to link up with talented wide receiver Jesse Canada, who caught 70 passes as a freshman. Highlighting the defense will be speedy cornerback Bruce Irvin (6-4, 220).

5 BUTTE CC *(Calif.) (12-0)*

While only eight starters return to a program that won its first CCCAA title last season, this is one of several two-year programs that always seems to be among the elite. Coach Jeff Jordan's significant returnees include offensive linemen Etuale Feo (6-5, 360) and Randall Huff (6-3, 280), cornerback A.J. Hills and quarterback Jordan Rodgers. A flood of talented newcomers should have the Roadrunners living up to their moniker in fine fashion.

COURTESY MISSISSIPPI STATE SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

SUPER SOPHOMORES

OFFENSE	POS.	HT.	WT.	JUCO
Ross Dausin	QB	6-5	210	Butler County, Kan.
Brandon Baldwin	RB	6-0	195	Shasta, Calif.
DeAndre Johnson	RB	5-8	185	Alfred State, N.Y.
Quintin Robinson	WR	6-3	180	Ellsworth, Iowa
Dexter Ransom	WR	6-4	217	Blinn, Texas
Jordan Lower	TE	6-4	235	Snow, Utah
Levy Adcock	OL	6-6	315	Northeastern Oklahoma A&M
Juan Bolanos	OL	6-7	330	Grossmont, Calif.
Ryan Clanton	OL	6-5	295	City College of San Francisco, Calif.
Jermarcus Hardrick	OL	6-6	310	Fort Scott, Kan.
DeShawn Smith	OL	6-2	290	Butler County, Kans.

DEFENSE	POS.	HT.	WT.	JUCO
Wayne Dorsey	DL	6-8	250	Mississippi Gulf Coast
Marquis Jackson	DL	6-5	250	College of the Canyons, Calif.
Brandon Joiner	DL	6-3	255	Navarro, Texas
Star Lotulelei	DL	6-4	285	Snow, Utah
Mychal Conel	LB	6-0	215	Golden West, Calif.
Paul Vassallo	LB	6-3	240	Sierra, Calif.
Forlando Johnson	LB	5-11	215	Butler County, Kan.
Dave Clark	DB	6-2	190	Independence, Kan.
Jakar Hamilton	DB	6-2	205	Georgia Military
Dontae Smith	DB	6-2	180	Reedley, Calif.
Hershal Thornton	DB	6-1	205	Lackawanna, Pa.

SPECIALISTS	POS.	HT.	WT.	JUCO
Mike Kusnierz	K	5-11	210	Rochester, Minn.
Sean Wren	P	6-4	205	Fullerton, Calif.
Eric Russell	ATH	5-11	195	Cerritos, Calif.
Brandon Grissom	ATH	6-0	185	Golden West, Calif.

6 COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS *(Calif.) (12-1)*

Does defense win championships? If so, count Canyons in the running for all of the coveted juco marbles. The Cougars have seven returning defensive starters—the most talented being end Marquis Jackson. Last year, Jackson completed his first season with 60 tackles, one interception, seven pass breakups and a fumble recovery. He was the only freshman on the team to earn both All-State and All-America honors. Other assets include a solid incoming freshman class and impressive team speed. Put it all together and it bodes well for coach Garett Tujague.

7 SNOW COLLEGE *(Utah) (11-1)*

Coach Steve Coburn can sell a recruit on numerous reasons to play for the Badgers, but his two best pitches are the most important—winning and tradition. Coburn is 33-3 in his three seasons leading the team and two Snow alumni played in Super Bowl 43—Pittsburgh defensive lineman Brett Keisel and Arizona offensive lineman Deuce Lutui. In 2009, wide receiver Mazi Ogbonna (6-2, 190) and tight end Jordan Lower (6-4, 235) will be the main targets for quarterback Quinn Meacham. Tackle Ron Tongaonevai (6-1, 280) will lead the defense.

8 NAVARRO COLLEGE *(Texas) (10-1)*

Coach Nick Bobeck had a banner campaign in 2008, as his Bulldogs won the Southwest Junior College Football Conference's regular-season crown. Navarro's defense yielded 290.5 yards a game along with 17 interceptions, 42.5 sacks and 78 tackles for loss. There shouldn't be a drop-off in '09, as eight starters return on defense, highlighted by lineman Brandon Joiner (6-3, 255). Linebacker Brad Graham (6-0, 210) and cornerback Trevor Drayton (6-0, 185) are also back.

9 EL CAMINO CC *(Calif.) (10-2)*

With coach John Featherstone's leadership and stout recruiting, El Camino has turned into a monster program. He can also thank ESPN analyst and friend Chris Mortensen for helping him land Matt Simms, who transferred from Louisville. Mortensen recommended the school to former NFL great Phil Simms, Matt's father. After a visit, the former three-star quarterback signed on. If he wins the starting job, Simms will throw to receiver Kembrell Thompkins (57 catches, 1,100 yards). Cornerback Michael Harris and end Daniel Stewart will pace the defense.

10 ELLSWORTH CC *(Iowa) (8-3)*

Coach Michael Virden was the quarterback on the 1987 Ellsworth team that won an NJCAA championship—a feat the Panthers haven't repeated since. As for 2009, Ellsworth has a good shot. It returns 17 starters (9 on offense, 8 on defense) from a team that lost two of its three games by a combined 10 points last season. The big question is whether pint-sized quarterback Tirrell Rennie (5-11, 190), who totaled 3,827 yards (2,719 passing, 1,108 rushing) as a freshman can come up with an impressive encore. Receiver Quintin Robinson, cornerback Matt Harvey, linebacker L.J. Gamblin and defensive lineman Aaron Strumski also return.

BRANDON JOINER
Navarro College

BEST OF THE REST

11 Sierra (Calif.) College (9-2)
12 Blinn (Texas) College (9-3)
13 City College of San Francisco (7-4)
14 Fort Scott (Kan.) CC (9-2)
15 Cerritos (Calif.) College (7-4)
16 Kilgore (Texas) College (6-4)
17 Pearl River (Miss.) CC (8-3)
18 Fullerton (Calif.) CC (10-2)
19 San Joaquin Delta (Calif.) College (8-3)
20 Saddleback (Calif.) CC (7-4)
21 Georgia Military College (9-2)
22 Foothill (Calif.) College (8-3)
23 Reedley (Calif.) College (7-4)
24 Laney (Calif.) College (8-3)
25 Harper (Ill.) College (11-1)

(L TO R): COURTESY GREG DART; COURTESY NAVARRO COLLEGE SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

2009 HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

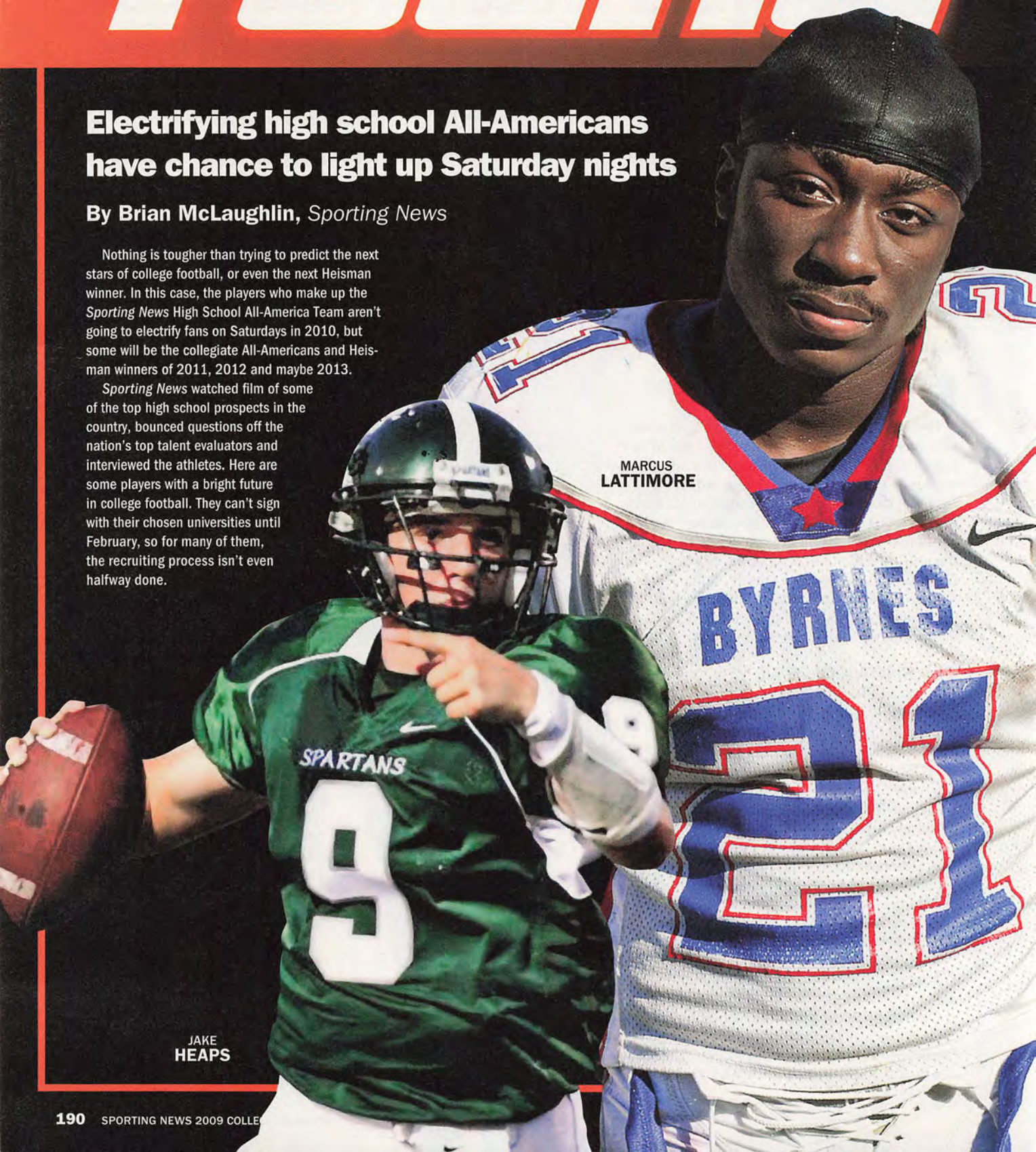
YOUNG

Electrifying high school All-Americans have chance to light up Saturday nights

By Brian McLaughlin, *Sporting News*

Nothing is tougher than trying to predict the next stars of college football, or even the next Heisman winner. In this case, the players who make up the *Sporting News* High School All-America Team aren't going to electrify fans on Saturdays in 2010, but some will be the collegiate All-Americans and Heisman winners of 2011, 2012 and maybe 2013.

Sporting News watched film of some of the top high school prospects in the country, bounced questions off the nation's top talent evaluators and interviewed the athletes. Here are some players with a bright future in college football. They can't sign with their chosen universities until February, so for many of them, the recruiting process isn't even halfway done.

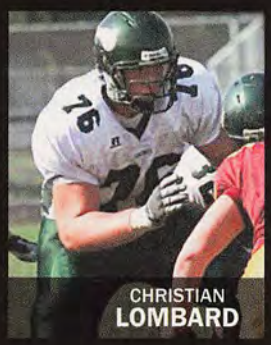


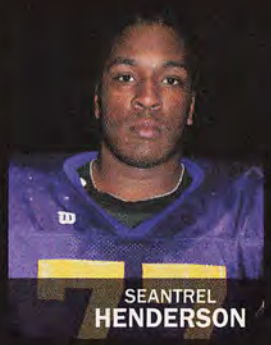
MARCUS **LATTIMORE**

JAKE **HEAPS**

GUNS

DeMARCO COBBS


CHRISTIAN LOMBARD


SEANTREL HENDERSON

JUSTIN McCAY

QB

This isn't a banner year for the quarterback position, yet despite lacking quantity, there's quality. Sammamish, Wash., signal-caller Jake Heaps is the top choice. He's already led Skyline High to two straight state championships, throwing for 6,104 yards, 69 touchdowns and only 11 interceptions. He's talented, humble and mature—and more than 20 schools want him. Washington is hoping to keep him in the state, but schools from the SEC to the Pac-10 have eyes on him too.

RB

This position contains *Sporting News'* No. 1 player, Marcus Lattimore of James F. Byrnes (Duncan, S.C.) High. Clemson and South Carolina are salivating over this talented and well-versed back, but so is every other school in the nation. He's powerful and has speed. Lattimore doesn't dance around a defender, he just blows by or through them.

The other back in this group is more elusive. Temple (Texas) High running back Lache Seastrunk is shifty and slippery. Schools like Auburn, Oklahoma and Texas are just a few that would love a commitment from him.

WR/TE

Bishop Miege (Shawnee, Kan.) High receiver Justin McCay provides versatility at several positions and is an outstanding kick-return threat, but several schools are looking at him as a receiver. He's confident, takes the game seriously and could be a leader. And the term "upside" isn't limited to his skills. Although McCay is 6-3 now, he has a brother who grew to 6-6, so he may add a few more inches to his stout frame. Teams from Oregon to Florida want him.

Opposite McCay in the lineup is Tulsa (Okla.) Central High do-everything talent DeMarco Cobbs, who accounted for 33 touchdowns his junior season. He has played quarterback in high school, but is projected as a receiver at the next level. Oklahoma probably has the edge with Cobbs, but Texas has also offered him a scholarship, as have dozens of other big-name schools.

OL

This might be the "Year of the Offensive Lineman," and it starts with St. Paul, Minn., native Seantrel Henderson. He has outstanding footwork for a player who is 6-8 and 300 pounds, thanks to his basketball background. That ability to move has made him one of the most highly recruited players to ever come out of Minnesota. He's not boastful, but plenty of others tout the praises of the Cretin-Derham Hall High talent. Plan on some of the nation's biggest coaching names to flock to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area this season, hoping to steal this tackle away from the Big Ten.

The other noteworthy linemen include Oklahoma commitment Bronson Irwin (Mustang, Okla.), Notre Dame verbal Christian Lombard (Palatine, Ill.), Texas commitment Trey Hopkins (Galena Park, Texas) and uncommitted Erik Kohler (Westlake Village, Calif.). This fall, Kohler, who has attracted the Pac-10's attention, will protect quarterback Nick Montana, the son of NFL great Joe Montana.

DL

Two of *SN's* defensive linemen have already chosen their schools. William M. Raines (Jacksonville, Fla.) High product Louis Nix picked Miami in early December, but several schools are still courting him, including national champion Florida.

Jackson Jeffcoat, of Plano (Texas) West Senior High, is another nimble lineman with a basketball background.

THIS PAGE (L TO R): COURTESY COREY RUSSELL / CENTRAL HIGH, COURTESY BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN, COURTESY RIVALS, COURTESY COLLEEN COOKE. OPPOSITE PAGE (L TO R): COURTESY JIM SIMPHINS, COURTESY RIVALS

He could end up anywhere from Georgia to USC, but one of the Big 12 powers seems like the best fit for the son of former Dallas Cowboy Jim Jeffcoat.

The other two standouts on the line are Gabe King of Page High in Greensboro, N.C., and Zack McCray of Brookville (Lynchburg, Va.) High. McCray got a first-hand look at the recruiting process when 2009 blue-chip recruit Logan Thomas (a Virginia Tech signee) went through it last year. King, who racked up 75 tackles as a junior, has dozens of options and is planning to take his time with the process.

› LB

Talent and speed describe this trio. Justin Maclin, of Ridgeway (Memphis, Tenn.) High, told *SN* his top-five list consists of LSU, Alabama, Illinois, North Carolina and Tennessee. He grew up an LSU fan, but has gotten tons of pressure to play for the in-state Volunteers.

Southern Cal has been pursuing Christian Jones from 2,500 miles away and you can't blame the Trojans. Jones, who attends Lake Howell High in Winter Park, Fla., racked up 163 tackles and four sacks in 10 games last year. The Trojans will have to get through Florida, Florida State and Miami to earn Jones' services.

Corey Nelson, of Skyline (Dallas) High, is a playmaker. Nelson had a stellar junior campaign, notching 156 tackles, 12 sacks and nine blocked punts. His motor runs at a different level than most, and all of the schools in the Big 12 would love to get him.

› DB

One of the most exciting players in this year's class is cornerback Lamarcus Joyner, who transferred from Miami Southwest High to *ESPN RISE* mythical national champion St. Thomas Aquinas in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Like many players in south Florida, speed is Joyner's game. He accounted for 14 touchdowns as a junior.

Also in the defensive backfield are Dietrich Riley of St. Francis (La Canada, Calif.) High, Garry Peters of Heritage (Conyers, Ga.) High and Texas commitment Carrington Byndom of Lufkin (Texas) High. Riley has attracted the attention of most of the Pac-10, and schools from the East are beginning to take notice, as Peters is coveted by just about every SEC and ACC school.

› ATH

Matt Elam and Jamel Turner could play several positions and would dominate any of them. Elam, of Dwyer High in West Palm Beach, Fla., accounted for 12 touchdowns on offense and 91 tackles on defense in 2008. He has already committed to Florida. Turner dominated at Ursuline (Youngstown, Ohio) High, racking up 23 sacks as a junior last year. He can play on either the defensive line or linebacker and has committed to Ohio State.

› K/P

Jupiter (Fla.) High kicker Cody Parkey is already committed to Auburn and will be a long-distance threat for the Tigers, while Whitefish Bay (Wisc.) High punter Will Hagerup is one of the few specialists who boasts multiple offers (Tennessee, Florida and Wisconsin, among others).

SPORTING NEWS

CLASS OF 2010

HIGH SCHOOL ALL-AMERICA TEAM

OFFENSE		HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
QB	Jake Heaps	6-1	195	Skyline	Sammamish, Wash.
RB	Marcus Lattimore	5-11	210	James F. Byrnes	Duncan, S.C.
RB	Lache Seastrunk	5-11	190	Temple	Temple, Texas
WR	Justin McCay	6-3	200	Bishop Miege	Shawnee, Kan.
WR	DeMarco Cobbs	6-1	200	Tulsa Central	Tulsa, Okla.
TE	Xavier Grimble	6-5	245	Bishop Gorman	Las Vegas, Nev.
OL	Seantrel Henderson	6-8	300	Cretin-Derham Hall	St. Paul, Minn.
OL	Bronson Irwin	6-5	320	Mustang	Mustang, Okla.
OL	Christian Lombard	6-5	290	William Fremd	Palatine, Ill.
OL	Erik Kohler	6-4	265	Oaks Christian	Westlake Village, Calif.
OL	Trey Hopkins	6-4	260	North Shore	Galena Park, Texas
K	Cody Parkey	6-0	195	Jupiter	Jupiter, Fla.
ATH	Matt Elam	6-0	205	Dwyer	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
DEFENSE					
DL	Gabe King	6-5	245	Page	Greensboro, N.C.
DL	Zack McCray	6-4	228	Brookville	Lynchburg, Va.
DL	Louis Nix	6-2	320	William M. Raines	Jacksonville, Fla.
DL	Jackson Jeffcoat	6-4	233	Plano West Senior	Plano, Texas
LB	Corey Nelson	6-0	210	Skyline	Dallas
LB	Justin Maclin	6-4	215	Ridgeway	Memphis, Tenn.
LB	Christian Jones	6-4	220	Lake Howell	Winter Park, Fla.
DB	Dietrich Riley	6-0	181	St. Francis	La Canada, Calif.
DB	Lamarcus Joyner	5-9	165	St. Thomas Aquinas	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
DB	Garry Peters	6-0	175	Heritage	Conyers, Ga.
DB	Carrington Byndom	6-0	165	Lufkin	Lufkin, Texas
P	Will Hagerup	6-4	215	Whitefish Bay	Whitefish Bay, Wis.
ATH	Jamel Turner	6-3	210	Ursuline	Youngstown, Ohio

CARRINGTON **BYNDOM**

COURTESY BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN

THE NEXT

TOP 100 PLAYERS TO WATCH

Quarterbacks

	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Blake Bell	6-6	215	Bishop Carroll Catholic	Wichita, Kan.
Joe Boisture	6-6	200	Saline	Saline, Mich.
Barry Bostic	5-10	155	Jefferson County	Louisville, Ga.
Barry Brunetti	6-0	210	Memphis University	Memphis, Tenn.
Trey Burton	6-3	203	Venice	Venice, Fla.
Devin Gardner	6-4	196	Inkster	Inkster, Mich.
Austin Hinder	6-4	180	Steamboat Springs	Steamboat Springs, Colo.
Paul Jones	6-3	223	Sto-Rox	McKees Rocks, Pa.
Phillip Sims	6-2	215	Oscar F. Smith	Chesapeake, Va.
Connor Wood	6-4	203	Second Baptist	Houston

Running backs

	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Anthony Barr	6-4	225	Loyola	Los Angeles
Giovanni Bernard	5-9	200	St. Thomas Aquinas	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Mack Brown	5-11	175	Martin Luther King	Lithonia, Ga.
Brennan Clay	6-0	190	Scripps Ranch	San Diego
Eduardo Clements	5-11	185	Booker T. Washington	Miami
Michael Dyer	5-10	195	Little Rock Christian	Little Rock, Ark.
Ethan Grant	5-10	175	North Broward	Coconut Creek, Fla.
Jordon James	5-10	185	Corona	Corona, Calif.
Malcolm Jones	6-0	210	Oaks Christian	Westlake Village, Calif.
D.J. Morgan	5-11	173	William Howard Taft	Woodland Hills, Calif.
Silas Redd	5-10	190	King & Low-Heywood Thomas Sch.	Stamford, Conn.
Spencer Ware	5-10	212	Princeton	Cincinnati
Dontae Williams	5-11	185	Aldine	Houston

Wide receivers/tight ends

	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Markeith Ambles	6-3	185	Henry County	McDonough, Ga.
Ross Apo	6-2	190	The Oakridge School	Arlington, Texas
Dillon Baxter	6-0	205	Mission Bay Senior	San Diego
Kadron Boone	6-1	190	Trinity Catholic	Ocala, Fla.
Martavis Bryant	6-4	187	T.L. Hanna	Anderson, S.C.
Mike Davis	6-1	175	Skyline	Dallas
Chris Dunkley	5-11	169	Royal Palm Beach	Royal Palm Beach, Fla.
Christian Green	6-2	185	Tampa Catholic	Tampa, Fla.
John Harris	6-3	195	Naaman Forest	Garland, Texas
Tai-ler Jones	6-0	177	Gainesville	Gainesville, Ga.
Marcus Lucas	6-4	185	Liberty Senior	Liberty, Mo.
Ivan McCartney	6-1	160	Miramar	Miramar, Fla.
Ted Meline	6-2	170	Booker T. Washington	Miami
Ricardo Miller	6-2	205	Dr. Phillips	Orlando, Fla.
Shakim Phillips	6-2	192	DePaul Catholic	Wayne, N.J.
Kyle Prater	6-4	205	Proviso West	Hillside, Ill.
Trovon Reed	6-0	175	Thibodaux	Thibodaux, La.
Kenny Stills	6-2	180	La Costa Canyon	Carlsbad, Calif.
Christian Thomas	6-3	235	Highland	Palmdale, Calif.
Jaylen Watkins	6-0	175	Cape Coral	Cape Coral, Fla.
Darius White	6-4	195	Dunbar	Fort Worth, Texas
DeAndrew White	5-11	165	North Shore	Galena Park, Texas
Robert Woods	6-1	170	Junipero Serra	Gardena, Calif.

Offensive linemen

	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Brent Benedict	6-5	285	Bolles	Jacksonville, Fla.
Seth Betancourt	6-7	290	St. Joseph's	Philadelphia

Offensive linemen *(cont'd.)*

	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Robert Crisp	6-8	290	Chapel Hill	Chapel Hill, N.C.
Nick Demien	6-6	290	Timberland	Wentzville, Mo.
James Hurst	6-5	271	Plainfield	Plainfield, Ind.
JaWuan James	6-6	285	North Gwinnett	Suwanee, Ga.
Matt James	6-7	260	St. Xavier	Cincinnati
Brandon Linder	6-6	285	St. Thomas Aquinas	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
Jake Matthews	6-5	270	Lawrence E. Elkins	Missouri City, Texas
Andrew Norwell	6-6	255	Anderson	Cincinnati
Damien Robinson	6-8	330	Olive Branch	Olive Branch, Miss.
Andrew Rodriguez	6-6	300	Aurora	Aurora, Neb.
James Stone	6-5	280	Maplewood Comp	Nashville, Tenn.

Defensive linemen

	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Jordan Allen	6-5	250	West Monroe	West Monroe, La.
Kyle Baublitz	6-4	255	Central York	York, Pa.
Taylor Bible	6-3	283	Guyer	Denton, Texas
Gerald Christian	6-3	220	Dwyer	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
J.R. Ferguson	6-4	255	St. John's at Prospect Hall	Frederick, Md.
William Gholston	6-7	245	Southeastern	Detroit
Tavadis Glenn	6-5	265	Terry Parker	Jacksonville, Fla.
DaQuan Jones	6-4	285	Johnson City	Johnson City, N.Y.
Corey Lemonier	6-4	225	Hialeah	Hialeah, Fla.
Chris Martin	6-4	222	Bishop O'Dowd	Oakland, Calif.
Denzel McCoy	6-4	275	Northview	Duluth, Ga.
Owamagbe Odighizuwa	6-3	235	David Douglas	Portland, Ore.
Aramide Olaniyan	6-2	195	Woodberry Forest	Woodberry Forest, Va.
Ronald Powell	6-4	250	Rancho Verde	Moreno Valley, Calif.
Garrison Smith	6-4	259	Douglass	Atlanta
Jacques Smith	6-2	235	Ooltewah	Ooltewah, Tenn.
Curtis White	6-5	240	Henry D. Sheldon	Eugene, Ore.
Brandon Willis	6-4	255	James F. Byrnes	Duncan, S.C.
Reggie Wilson	6-3	238	Haltom	Haltom City, Texas

Linebackers

	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
V.J. Fehoko	6-0	225	Farrington	Honolulu
Nick Forbes	6-1	220	Gov. Thomas Johnson	Frederick, Md.
Khairi Fortt	6-3	221	Stamford	Stamford, Conn.
Jordan Hicks	6-2	200	Lakota West	West Chester, Ohio
Mike Hull	6-1	204	Canon-McMillan	Canonsburg, Pa.
Tony Jefferson	6-0	191	Eastlake	Chula Vista, Calif.
Jeff Luc	6-1	240	Treasure Coast	Port St. Lucie, Fla.
Justin Parker	6-2	210	Beaufort	Beaufort, S.C.
Dakota Royer	6-3	220	Manheim Central	Manheim, Pa.

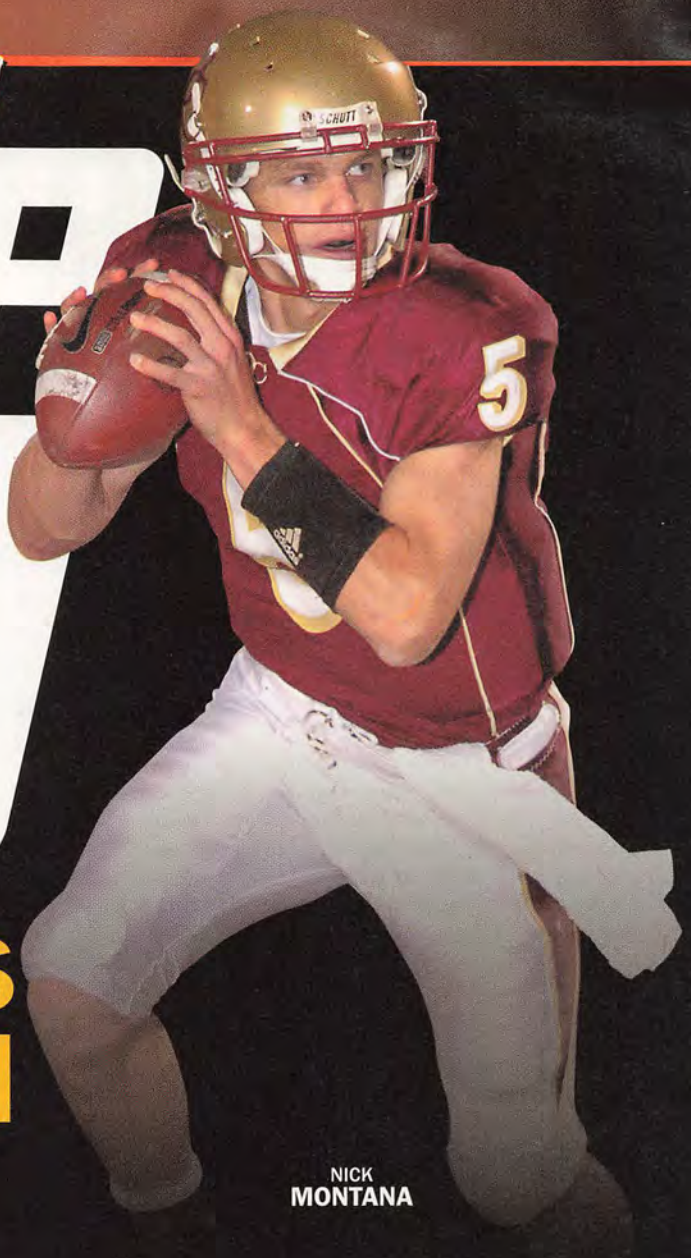
Defensive backs

	HT.	WT.	HIGH SCHOOL	HOMETOWN
Keenan Allen	6-3	195	Northern Guilford	Greensboro, N.C.
Ahmad Dixon	6-1	190	Midway	Waco, Texas
Demar Dorsey	6-1	175	Boyd Anderson	Lauderdale Lakes, Fla.
Jonathan Dowling	6-4	185	Southeast	Bradenton, Fla.
Victor Hampton	5-11	175	Independence	Charlotte, N.C.
DeAndre Hopkins	6-2	174	D.W. Daniel	Central, S.C.
DeMarcus Milliner	6-1	175	Stanhope Elmore	Millbrook, Ala.
Terrence Mitchell	5-11	160	Hillsborough	Tampa, Fla.
Alec Ogletree	6-3	205	Newnan	Newnan, Ga.
Sean Parker	5-10	175	Nathaniel Narbonne	Harbor City, Calif.
Eric Reid	6-3	200	Dutchtown	Geismar, La.
Marvin Robinson	6-1	204	Lake Region	Eagle Lake, Fla.
Jarrick Williams	6-2	205	Mattie T. Blount	Prichard, Ala.

Sporting News

TOP 10

PREP TEAMS TO WATCH



NICK MONTANA

By Brian McLaughlin, *Sporting News*

(listed alphabetically by state)

Oaks Christian

» (Westlake Village, Calif.) 14-0 in '08

No opponent came within 21 points of the Lions last year, and a majority of the talent in the program is back for another run in 2009. Quarterback Nick Montana (6-2, 180 pounds), son of NFL great Joe Montana, returns for his second season as a starter after throwing for 2,404 yards and 33 touchdowns in 2008. Offensive lineman Erik Kohler (6-4, 265) has his pick of Pac-10 schools, while running back Malcolm Jones (6-0, 210), defensive tackle Cassius Marsh (6-3, 275, California commitment) and linebacker Zac Stout (6-1, 215) will all be playing at big-time programs next year.

St. Thomas Aquinas

» (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) 15-0

This program may be destined for another Class 5A state playoff run that could be topped with a state championship. And the Raiders will likely battle for a mythical national title as well. Cornerback Lamarcus Joyner (5-8, 165) is a speedster in the defensive backfield, while running back Giovanni Bernard (5-9, 200) and lineman Brandon Linder (6-6, 280) are just two of the nearly dozen Raiders with scholarship offers.

Pahokee

» (Fla.) 12-3

The small-school Blue Devils aren't afraid to play some of the nation's top programs, as they proved last year by taking on James F. Byrnes (Duncan, S.C.) and traveling to Olive Branch (Miss.), a Class 5A program. Pahokee has a good chunk of its 2008 Class 2B state title team back on the roster for the new season. Receiver De'Joshua Johnson (5-11, 160) leads a lengthy list of prospects that already have scholarship offers. Defensive end Richard Ash (6-4, 240) will also choose from multiple Division I schools.

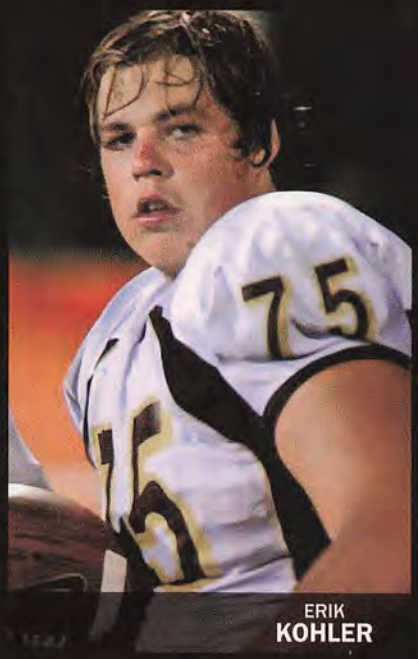
Dwyer

» (Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.) 12-2

The Panthers are 22-5 the past two seasons, and last year they lost only to perennial Florida powerhouse Glades Central (Belle Glade, Fla.) and then eventual Class 4A state champion Plant High (Tampa, Fla.) in the state playoffs. Returning this season is the best player from last year's team, Florida commitment Matt Elam (6-0, 205), who can play just about any skill position. Linebacker Gerald Christian (6-3, 220) is another talent who is considering the Gators but could sign with any

JOSE LUIS / CAL SPORT MEDIA

LAMARCUS JOYNER



ERIK KOHLER

(L TO R): COURTESY RIVALS; COURTESY SANDI PETERSON

school in the country. He racked up 87 tackles last year.

Lowndes County
» (Valdosta, Ga.) 12-1

Georgia prep football boats some serious competition, so there are no guarantees, but Lowndes County looks to have one of the better programs in the state this year. The Vikings began the season 12-0 before falling to Grayson (Loganville, Ga.) in the Class 5A state playoffs. Lowndes is led by offensive tackle Ed Christian (6-5, 280), who has committed to Florida State.

St. Ignatius
» (Cleveland) 14-1

The Wildcats rattled off 14 wins in a row to finish the 2008 season as state champions, along the way beating cross-city rival Glenville by one point in the state playoffs after falling to the Tarblooders by three in the season opener. The top player for the Wildcats is linebacker Scott McVey (5-11, 215), whom Ohio State would like to get a commitment from soon. Also, pro-style quarterback Mark Myers (6-5, 210) has the size that could catch the attention of scouts this summer.

James F. Byrnes
» (Spartanburg, S.C.) 14-1

The Rebels could be labeled the best high school team in the country this year. They are loaded and ready for a state title run. After falling to Dorman (Spartanburg, S.C.) in the 2008 regular season, Byrnes vindicated its loss in the playoffs and went on to win the Class 4A state title. This year, *Sporting News*' No. 1 prospect of 2010, running back Marcus Lattimore (5-11, 210), leads the Rebels after rushing for 2,303 yards and 30 touchdowns last fall. Defensive linemen Corey Miller (6-4, 230) and Brandon Willis (6-4, 250) are also on the radar of major programs.

Allen
» (Texas) 15-1

A September loss to Trinity (Euless, Texas) was avenged in the Texas state playoffs, as the Eagles went on to claim the Class 5A championship, beating Hightower (Missouri City, Texas) 21-14. The Eagles return two D-I prospects in offensive tackle Cedric Ogbuehi (6-5, 270, committed to Texas A&M) and quarterback Matt Brown (6-0, 175), who has attracted scholarship offers from the Big 12 and Pac-10. Brown has thrown for 4,393 yards and 52 touchdowns the past two seasons while rushing for 2,059 yards.

Cedar Hill
» (Texas) 12-2

The Longhorns weren't too shabby last year, falling by only 10 points in the fourth round of the state playoffs to Wylie, Texas. This season, the program is stacked for a run at a state title. Leading the way is linebacker Aaron Benson (6-2, 205), who racked up 132 tackles and eight sacks as a junior. He has committed to Texas, while teammate Ben Malena (5-9, 210), a running back, has given his word to Texas A&M. Malena rushed for 2,202 yards and 35 touchdowns last season. Several other Longhorns will likely be signing D-I scholarships in February.

Skyline
» (Sammamish, Wash.) 14-0

The Spartans have won two state championships in a row with *Sporting News*' top-ranked quarterback Jake Heaps (6-2, 195), who's back for his senior year. The problem is, Heaps' top receiving threat, Gino Simone, heads to Washington State this year. Despite the loss, Heaps already has proven he can lead this team to victory with his strong arm.

THE NEXT 20 PROGRAMS
(listed alphabetically by state)

- **Prattville** (Ala.) 13-1
- **De La Salle** (Concord, Calif.) 12-2
- **Notre Dame** (Sherman Oaks, Calif.) 11-1
- **Poly** (Long Beach, Calif.) 14-1
- **St. Bonaventure** (Ventura, Calif.) 14-1
- **Bolles** (Jacksonville, Fla.) 14-0
- **Miami Central** 8-4
- **Miami Northwestern** 13-3
- **Buford** (Ga.) 15-0
- **Bishop Carroll** (Wichita, Kan.) 9-2
- **Curtis** (River Ridge, La.) 14-1
- **Muskegon** (Mich.) 14-0
- **Independence** (Charlotte, N.C.) 13-1
- **Elder** (Cincinnati) 13-2
- **Glenville** (Cleveland) 11-1
- **Liberty** (Bethlehem, Pa.) 15-1
- **South Pointe** (Rock Hill, S.C.) 15-0
- **Memphis University** (Memphis, Tenn.) 13-0
- **Dunbar** (Fort Worth, Texas) 9-2
- **Skyline** (Dallas) 12-2

'08 FBS NCAA STATISTICS

COURTESY OF THE NCAA

—compiled by Tyler Nelson

PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Sam Bradford, Oklahoma	SO	14	483	328	67.91	8	1.66	4720	9.77	50	10.35	180.8
David Johnson, Tulsa	SR	14	400	258	64.50	18	4.50	4059	10.15	46	11.50	178.7
Colt McCoy, Texas	JR	13	433	332	76.67	8	1.85	3859	8.91	34	7.85	173.8
Tim Tebow, Florida	JR	14	298	192	64.43	4	1.34	2746	9.21	30	10.07	172.4
Zac Robinson, Oklahoma State	JR	13	314	204	64.97	10	3.18	3064	9.76	25	7.96	166.8
Mark Sanchez, USC	JR	13	366	241	65.85	10	2.73	3207	8.76	34	9.29	164.6
Chase Clement, Rice	SR	13	490	326	66.53	7	1.43	4119	8.41	44	8.98	163.9
Graham Harrell, Texas Tech	SR	13	626	442	70.61	9	1.44	5111	8.16	45	7.19	160.0
Case Keenum, Houston	SO	13	589	397	67.40	11	1.87	5020	8.52	44	7.47	159.9
Chase Daniel, Missouri	SR	14	528	385	72.92	18	3.41	4335	8.21	39	7.39	159.4
Max Hall, BYU	JR	13	477	330	69.18	14	2.94	3957	8.30	35	7.34	157.2
Kellen Moore, Boise State	FR	13	405	281	69.38	10	2.47	3486	8.61	25	6.17	157.1
Nate Davis, Ball State	JR	14	401	258	64.34	8	2.00	3591	8.96	26	6.48	157.0
Joe Ganz, Nebraska	SR	13	420	285	67.86	11	2.62	3568	8.50	25	5.95	153.6
Matthew Stafford, Georgia	JR	13	383	235	61.36	10	2.61	3459	9.03	25	6.53	153.5
Brian Johnson, Utah	SR	13	394	268	68.02	9	2.28	2972	7.54	27	6.85	149.4
Todd Reesing, Kansas	JR	13	495	329	66.46	13	2.63	3888	7.85	32	6.46	148.5
Mike Teel, Rutgers	SR	13	396	243	61.36	13	3.28	3418	8.63	25	6.31	148.1
Adam DiMichele, Temple	SR	9	231	134	58.01	6	2.60	1911	8.27	18	7.79	148.0
Trevor Vittatoe, UTEP	SO	12	418	246	58.85	9	2.15	3274	7.83	33	7.89	146.4
Jevan Snead, Ole Miss	SO	13	327	184	56.27	13	3.98	2762	8.45	26	7.95	145.5
Willie Tuitama, Arizona	SR	13	399	259	64.91	8	2.01	3088	7.74	23	5.76	144.9
Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan	JR	11	376	251	66.76	6	1.6	2784	7.4	21	5.59	144.2
Tim Hiller, Western Michigan	JR	13	522	339	64.94	10	1.92	3725	7.14	36	6.90	143.8
Daryll Clark, Penn State	SR	13	321	192	59.81	6	1.87	2592	8.07	19	5.92	143.4

TOTAL OFFENSE

				RUSHING			PASSING		TOTAL OFFENSE			
	YEAR	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	YDS/G
Case Keenum, Houston	SO	13	76	410	189	221	589	5020	665	5241	7.88	403.2
Graham Harrell, Texas Tech	SR	13	41	113	128	-15	626	5111	667	5096	7.64	392.0
Chase Clement, Rice	SR	13	154	942	249	693	490	4119	644	4812	7.47	370.2
Sam Bradford, Oklahoma	SO	14	42	140	93	47	483	4720	525	4767	9.08	340.5
Colt McCoy, Texas	JR	13	136	734	173	561	433	3859	569	4420	7.77	340.0
Chase Daniel, Missouri	SR	14	69	384	103	281	528	4335	597	4616	7.73	329.7
Juice Williams, Illinois	JR	12	175	923	204	719	381	3173	556	3892	7.00	324.3
Todd Reesing, Kansas	JR	13	126	489	265	224	495	3888	621	4112	6.62	316.3
Max Hall, BYU	JR	13	65	242	127	115	477	3957	542	4072	7.51	313.2
Dan LeFevour, Central Michigan	JR	11	168	763	171	592	376	2784	544	3376	6.21	306.9
Colin Kaepernick, Nevada	SO	13	161	1298	168	1130	383	2849	544	3979	7.31	306.1
David Johnson, Tulsa	SR	14	92	358	172	186	400	4059	492	4245	8.63	303.2
Joe Ganz, Nebraska	SR	13	92	417	159	258	420	3568	512	3826	7.47	294.3
Tim Hiller, Western Michigan	JR	13	38	122	120	2	522	3725	560	3727	6.66	286.7
Joe Webb, UAB	JR	12	198	1218	197	1021	353	2367	551	3388	6.15	282.3
Austin Davis, Southern Miss	FR	13	155	729	221	508	454	3128	609	3636	5.97	279.7
Josh Freeman, Kansas State	JR	12	107	538	134	404	382	2945	489	3349	6.85	279.1
Zac Robinson, Oklahoma State	JR	13	146	700	138	562	314	3064	460	3626	7.88	278.9
Nate Davis, Ball State	JR	14	66	410	98	312	401	3591	467	3903	8.36	278.8
Trevor Vittatoe, UTEP	SO	12	45	186	217	-31	418	3274	463	3243	7.00	270.3
Matt Grothe, South Florida	JR	13	146	830	239	591	380	2911	526	3502	6.66	269.4
Matthew Stafford, Georgia	JR	13	55	189	149	40	383	3459	438	3499	7.99	269.2
Austen Arnaud, Iowa State	SO	12	109	511	110	401	401	2792	510	3193	6.26	266.1
Kellen Moore, Boise State	FR	13	38	84	114	-30	405	3486	443	3456	7.80	265.8
Julian Edelman, Kent State	SR	12	215	1551	181	1370	275	1820	490	3190	6.51	265.8

ALL-PURPOSE YARDAGE

	YEAR	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	PLAYS	YDS/PL	YDS	YDS/GM
Jeremy Maclin, Missouri	SO	14	293	1260	270	1010	207	13.69	2833	202.36
Jahvid Best, California	SO	12	1580	246	0	421	237	9.48	2247	187.25
T.Y. Hilton, Florida International	FR	12	43	1013	266	841	109	19.84	2163	180.25
Antonio Brown, Central Michigan	SO	13	116	998	410	791	171	13.54	2315	178.08
Damaris Johnson, Tulsa	FR	14	327	743	23	1382	154	16.07	2475	176.79
Donald Brown, Connecticut	JR	13	2083	125	0	0	388	5.69	2208	169.85
Devin Moore, Wyoming	SR	12	1301	40	0	667	294	6.83	2008	167.33
DeMarco Murray, Oklahoma	SO	13	1002	395	0	774	238	9.12	2171	167.00
Darius Marshall, Marshall	SO	12	1099	98	0	790	270	7.36	1987	165.58
Josh Smith, Colorado	SO	12	32	387	292	1276	119	16.70	1987	165.58
Mardy Gilyard, Cincinnati	SR	14	10	1276	0	994	119	19.16	2280	162.86
Austin Collie, BYU	JR	13	77	1538	2	495	135	15.64	2112	162.46
Brandon West, Western Michigan	JR	12	1026	280	0	637	270	7.20	1943	161.92
Jason Chery, La.-Lafayette	SR	12	312	656	0	953	115	16.70	1921	160.08
Javon Ringer, Michigan State	SR	13	1637	190	0	224	429	4.78	2051	157.77
Terrence Austin, UCLA	JR	12	90	460	219	1109	135	13.91	1878	156.50
Phillip Livas, Louisiana Tech	SO	13	337	607	245	826	121	16.65	2015	155.00
James Rodgers, Oregon State	SO	12	408	607	0	818	130	14.10	1833	152.75
Chris Williams, New Mexico State	SR	12	0	1271	105	409	110	16.23	1785	148.75
MiQuale Lewis, Ball State	JR	14	1736	325	0	17	358	5.80	2078	148.43
C.J. Spiller, Clemson	JR	12	629	436	189	516	187	9.47	1770	147.50
Shonn Greene, Iowa	JR	13	1850	49	0	0	315	6.03	1899	146.08
Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State	SO	13	0	1480	305	100	108	17.45	1885	145.00
Brandon Banks, Kansas State	JR	12	126	1049	58	498	97	17.85	1731	144.25
Marcus Thigpen, Indiana	SR	12	631	235	0	853	145	11.86	1719	143.25

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC/G
Casey Fitzgerald, North Texas	SR	12	113	1119	6	9.42
James Casey, Rice	SO	13	111	1329	13	8.54
Austin Collie, BYU	JR	13	106	1538	15	8.15
Jamarko Simmons, Western Michigan	SR	13	104	1276	7	8.00
Chase Coffman, Missouri	SR	12	90	987	10	7.50
Michael Crabtree, Texas Tech	SO	13	97	1165	19	7.46
Kerry Meier, Kansas	JR	13	97	1045	8	7.46
Naaman Roosevelt, Buffalo	JR	14	104	1402	13	7.43
Ryan Wolfe, UNLV	JR	12	88	1040	6	7.33
Jacory Stone, Eastern Michigan	JR	12	88	943	3	7.33
Jeremy Maclin, Missouri	SO	14	102	1260	13	7.29
Kenny Britt, Rutgers	JR	12	87	1371	7	7.25
Chris Williams, New Mexico State	SR	12	86	1271	9	7.17
Antonio Brown, Central Michigan	SO	13	93	998	7	7.15
Dezmon Briscoe, Kansas	SO	13	92	1407	15	7.08
Quan Cosby, Texas	SR	13	92	1123	10	7.08
Eric Decker, Minnesota	JR	12	84	1074	7	7.00
Jordan Shipley, Texas	SR	13	89	1060	11	6.85
Emmanuel Sanders, SMU	JR	10	67	958	9	6.70
Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State	SO	13	87	1480	19	6.69
Jarett Dillard, Rice	SR	13	87	1310	20	6.69

INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT/G
Elbert Mack, Troy	SR	12	8	48	1	0.67
DeAngelo Smith, Cincinnati	JR	13	8	82	1	0.62
Alphonso Smith, Wake Forest	JR	13	8	166	3	0.62
Robert Vaughn, Connecticut	SO	12	7	112	0	0.58
P.J. Mahone, Bowling Green	SO	12	7	220	1	0.58
Reggie Corner, Akron	SR	12	7	142	1	0.58
William Moore, Missouri	JR	14	8	61	1	0.57
Jamie Silva, Boston College	SR	14	8	147	1	0.57
Tavious Polo, Florida Atlantic	FR	13	7	17	0	0.54
Jairus Byrd, Oregon	SO	13	7	31	0	0.54
Shane Carter, Wisconsin	SO	13	7	92	0	0.54
Tyrell Johnson, Arkansas State	SR	12	6	142	1	0.50
Patrick Robinson, Florida State	SO	12	6	87	0	0.50
Carson Bird, Air Force	SR	12	6	10	0	0.50
D.J. Moore, Vanderbilt	SO	12	6	53	1	0.50
Christopher Owens, San Jose State	JR	12	6	26	0	0.50
Ryan Downard, Eastern Michigan	FR	12	6	15	0	0.50
Trae Williams, South Florida	SR	13	6	164	3	0.46
Mike Mickens, Cincinnati	JR	13	6	136	2	0.46
Brandon Sumrall, Southern Miss	SR	13	6	101	1	0.46
Troy Nolan, Arizona State	JR	13	6	129	2	0.46
Rashad Johnson, Alabama	SO	13	6	64	0	0.46
Tracy Porter, Indiana	SR	13	6	137	0	0.46

SCORING

	YEAR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Javon Ringer, Michigan State	SR	13	22	0	0	132	10.15
LeSean McCoy, Pittsburgh	SO	13	21	0	0	126	9.69
Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State	SO	13	21	0	0	126	9.69
Graham Gano, Florida State	SR	11	0	33	24	105	9.55
Tyrell Fenroy, La.-Lafayette	SR	12	19	0	0	114	9.50
Jeff Wolfert, Missouri	SR	14	0	73	20	133	9.50
MiQuale Lewis, Ball State	JR	14	22	0	0	132	9.43
Louie Sakoda, Utah	SR	13	0	56	22	122	9.38
Jarett Dillard, Rice	SR	13	20	0	0	120	9.23
Kevin Kelly, Penn State	SR	13	0	60	20	120	9.23
Shonn Greene, Iowa	JR	13	20	0	0	120	9.23
Dennis Kennedy, Akron	SR	12	18	0	0	110	9.17
Chris Brown, Oklahoma	JR	14	21	0	0	126	9.00
James Casey, Rice	SO	13	19	0	0	114	8.77
Michael Crabtree, Texas Tech	SO	13	19	0	0	114	8.77
Jose Martinez, UTEP	SR	12	0	45	20	105	8.75
Phillip Tanner, Middle Tennessee	JR	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
Kory Sheets, Purdue	SR	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
James Starks, Buffalo	JR	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
Percy Harvin, Florida	JR	12	17	0	0	102	8.50

RUSHING

	YEAR	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Donald Brown, Connecticut	JR	13	367	2083	5.68	18	160.23
Shonn Greene, Iowa	JR	13	307	1850	6.03	20	142.31
Jahvid Best, California	SO	12	194	1580	8.14	15	131.67
Javon Ringer, Michigan State	SR	13	390	1637	4.20	22	125.92
MiQuale Lewis, Ball State	JR	14	322	1736	5.39	22	124.00
Chris Wells, Ohio State	JR	10	207	1197	5.78	8	119.70
Kendall Hunter, Oklahoma State	SO	13	241	1555	6.45	16	119.62
Vai Taua, Nevada	SO	13	236	1521	6.44	15	117.00
Tyrell Fenroy, La.-Lafayette	SR	12	226	1375	6.08	19	114.58
LeSean McCoy, Pittsburgh	SO	13	308	1488	4.83	21	114.46
Julian Edelman, Kent State	SR	12	215	1370	6.37	13	114.17
Jacquizz Rodgers, Oregon State	FR	11	259	1253	4.84	11	113.91
Gartrell Johnson, Colorado State	SR	13	278	1476	5.31	12	113.54
Collin Mooney, Army	SR	12	231	1339	5.80	8	111.58
James Starks, Buffalo	JR	12	272	1333	4.90	16	111.08
Dennis Kennedy, Akron	SR	12	239	1321	5.53	17	110.08
Damion Fletcher, Southern Miss	JR	12	219	1313	6.00	10	109.42
Tarrion Adams, Tulsa	SR	14	247	1523	6.17	14	108.79
Devin Moore, Wyoming	SR	12	249	1301	5.22	7	108.42
Knowshon Moreno, Georgia	SO	13	250	1400	5.60	16	107.69

PUNT RETURNS (MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Antonio Brown, Central Michigan	SO	20	410	1	20.50
Ian Clark, New Mexico	JR	12	236	0	19.67
Dez Bryant, Oklahoma State	SO	17	305	2	17.94
Kyle Williams, Arizona State	JR	14	238	0	17.00
Robert Dunn, Auburn	SR	15	240	1	16.00
Javier Arenas, Alabama	JR	41	650	3	15.85
Phillip Livas, Louisiana Tech	SO	16	245	2	15.31
Ray Small, Ohio State	JR	24	364	1	15.17
T.Y. Hilton, Florida International	FR	18	266	1	14.78
Joe Burnett, UCF	SR	26	378	0	14.54
D.J. Moore, Vanderbilt	JR	17	244	0	14.35
Kyle Wilson, Boise State	JR	33	470	3	14.24
Jeremy Kerley, TCU	SO	25	348	0	13.92
Brandon James, Florida	JR	37	510	2	13.78
Michael Thomas, Arizona	SR	29	392	2	13.52
Trindon Holliday, LSU	JR	21	279	1	13.29
Nate Swift, Nebraska	SR	23	296	1	12.87
Reggie Rembert, Air Force	SO	17	217	0	12.76
B.J. Hill, Ball State	SR	18	229	0	12.72
Jairus Byrd, Oregon	JR	26	320	1	12.31

PUNTING (MINIMUM OF 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	AVG
T.J. Conley, Idaho	SR	12	58	2751	47.43
Ross Thevenot, Tulane	JR	12	45	2061	45.80
Justin Brantly, Texas A&M	SR	12	51	2331	45.71
Jacob Richardson, Miami (Ohio)	SR	12	52	2360	45.38
Tim Masthay, Kentucky	SR	13	53	2397	45.23
Aaron Perez, UCLA	SR	12	79	3571	45.20
Kevin Huber, Cincinnati	SR	14	60	2697	44.95
Pat McAfee, West Virginia	SR	13	62	2772	44.71
Derek Epperson, Baylor	SO	12	49	2169	44.27
Anthony Hartz, Colorado State	JR	11	44	1940	44.09
Brad Langley, Nevada	SO	10	42	1850	44.05
Brian Mimbs, Georgia	SR	13	47	2068	44.00
Keenyn Crier, Arizona	SO	13	48	2109	43.94
Matt Dodge, East Carolina	JR	14	73	3207	43.93
Rob Long, Syracuse	SO	12	66	2898	43.91
Swayze Waters, UAB	SR	12	55	2396	43.56
Jeremy Davis, Arkansas	SR	12	57	2460	43.16
Bryan Anger, California	FR	13	71	3063	43.14
Kyle Petersen, UTEP	SO	11	46	1978	43.00
Zoltan Mesko, Michigan	JR	12	80	3436	42.95

FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FG/G
Graham Gano, Florida State	SR	11	26	24	0.923	2.18
Ben Hartman, East Carolina	JR	11	31	21	0.677	1.91
Ryan Harrison, Air Force	SR	13	29	24	0.828	1.85
Louie Sakoda, Utah	SR	13	24	22	0.917	1.69
Brett Swenson, Michigan State	JR	13	28	22	0.786	1.69
Nathan Parseghian, Miami (Ohio)	SR	12	23	20	0.870	1.67
Jose Martinez, UTEP	SR	12	27	20	0.741	1.67
Dustin Keys, Virginia Tech	SR	14	29	23	0.793	1.64
Kai Forbath, UCLA	SO	12	22	19	0.864	1.58
Swayze Waters, UAB	SR	12	24	19	0.792	1.58
Thomas Weber, Arizona State	SO	12	25	19	0.760	1.58
Josh Arauco, Arkansas State	JR	11	19	17	0.895	1.55
Kevin Kelly, Penn State	SR	13	24	20	0.833	1.54
Conor Lee, Pittsburgh	SR	13	24	20	0.833	1.54
Philip Welch, Wisconsin	FR	13	24	20	0.833	1.54
Amado Villarreal, Northwestern	SR	13	25	20	0.800	1.54
Sam Glusman, Troy	JR	13	29	20	0.690	1.54
Ryan Succop, South Carolina	SR	13	30	20	0.667	1.54
James Aho, New Mexico	FR	12	24	18	0.750	1.50
Igor Iveljic, Akron	SO	12	28	18	0.643	1.50

KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Travis Shelton, Temple	SR	23	720	1	31.30
Michael Ray Garvin, Florida State	SR	22	662	1	30.09
Perrish Cox, Oklahoma State	JR	30	895	2	29.83
A.J. Jefferson, Fresno State	JR	31	908	1	29.29
Aaron Brown, TCU	SR	18	526	1	29.22
Bryan Williams, Akron	SR	21	609	0	29.00
Joe Burnett, UCF	SR	26	745	2	28.65
L.J. Flintall, Ohio	JR	13	368	1	28.31
Brandon Banks, Kansas State	JR	18	498	1	27.67
DeMarco Murray, Oklahoma	SO	28	774	0	27.64
Mardy Gilyard, Cincinnati	SR	36	994	2	27.61
Austin Collie, BYU	JR	18	495	0	27.50
Tristan Davis, Auburn	SR	24	657	2	27.38
C.J. Spiller, Clemson	JR	19	516	1	27.16
Chris Garrett, Ohio	JR	23	618	1	26.87
Brandon Rutley, San Jose State	FR	28	748	0	26.71
Dontavia Bogan, South Florida	SO	29	770	0	26.55
Malcolm Lane, Hawaii	JR	24	635	0	26.46
Leonard Johnson, Iowa State	FR	40	1055	0	26.38
Darius Marshall, Marshall	SO	30	790	0	26.33

RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Navy	13	715	3801	5.32	32	292.38
Oregon	13	585	3641	6.22	47	280.08
Nevada	13	593	3611	6.09	39	277.77
Georgia Tech	13	640	3552	5.55	32	273.23
Tulsa	14	674	3752	5.57	40	268.00
Air Force	13	777	3470	4.47	27	266.92
La.-Lafayette	12	533	3164	5.94	32	263.67
Oklahoma State	13	582	3191	5.48	38	245.46
Army	12	635	2897	4.56	17	241.42
Florida	14	545	3236	5.94	42	231.14
Kent State	12	527	2767	5.25	27	230.58
TCU	13	642	2863	4.46	39	220.23
Connecticut	13	556	2813	5.06	27	216.38
Wisconsin	13	567	2745	4.84	31	211.15
West Virginia	13	517	2729	5.28	15	209.92
New Mexico	12	540	2499	4.63	23	208.25
Penn State	13	511	2676	5.24	36	205.85
Arkansas State	12	488	2440	5.00	19	203.33
Stanford	12	490	2395	4.89	26	199.58
Oklahoma	14	589	2779	4.72	45	198.50

RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
TCU	13	355	612	1.72	9	47.1
Alabama	14	391	1038	2.65	5	74.1
Texas	13	356	1086	3.05	8	83.5
Ole Miss	13	411	1112	2.71	9	85.5
USC	13	416	1136	2.73	8	87.4
Nevada	13	377	1152	3.06	17	88.6
Boston College	14	454	1277	2.81	14	91.2
Penn State	13	430	1212	2.82	12	93.2
Iowa	13	397	1222	3.08	7	94.0
South Florida	13	436	1238	2.84	12	95.2
Utah	13	415	1289	3.11	10	99.2
Tennessee	12	444	1237	2.79	6	103.1
Louisiana Tech	13	435	1350	3.10	12	103.8
Virginia Tech	14	451	1462	3.24	12	104.4
Florida	14	440	1476	3.35	9	105.4
Connecticut	13	423	1427	3.37	16	109.8
LSU	13	421	1432	3.40	17	110.2
Ohio State	13	406	1433	3.53	7	110.2
Cincinnati	14	481	1610	3.35	13	115.0
Oklahoma	14	469	1627	3.47	19	116.2

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Tulsa	14	1097	7978	7.27	90	569.86
Houston	13	1016	7316	7.20	71	562.77
Oklahoma	14	1106	7670	6.93	99	547.86
Texas Tech	13	979	6903	7.05	79	531.00
Nevada	13	1011	6611	6.54	64	508.54
Oklahoma State	13	908	6340	6.98	69	487.69
Oregon	13	959	6303	6.57	71	484.85
Missouri	14	982	6778	6.90	76	484.14
Texas	13	955	6185	6.48	74	475.77
Rice	13	965	6122	6.34	74	470.92
USC	13	891	5911	6.63	66	454.69
Nebraska	13	919	5860	6.38	58	450.77
La.-Lafayette	12	821	5390	6.57	54	449.17
Penn State	13	894	5836	6.53	63	448.92
Florida	14	874	6231	7.13	82	445.07
BYU	13	917	5782	6.31	59	444.77
Ball State	14	925	6195	6.70	63	442.50
Boise State	13	887	5731	6.46	63	440.85
Illinois	12	853	5266	6.17	43	438.83
Southern Miss	13	988	5636	5.70	52	433.54

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
TCU	13	739	2831	3.83	18	217.77
USC	13	798	2883	3.61	14	221.77
Alabama	14	858	3689	4.30	25	263.50
Tennessee	12	776	3162	4.07	20	263.50
Boston College	14	889	3754	4.22	31	268.14
Connecticut	13	791	3614	4.57	30	278.00
Virginia Tech	14	794	3912	4.93	27	279.43
Penn State	13	829	3641	4.39	22	280.08
Florida	14	896	3994	4.46	21	285.29
South Florida	13	814	3739	4.59	31	287.62
Utah	13	824	3759	4.56	28	289.15
Iowa	13	860	3787	4.40	17	291.31
South Carolina	13	804	3795	4.72	34	291.92
Ohio State	13	846	3819	4.51	21	293.77
Florida State	13	792	3834	4.84	29	294.92
Wake Forest	13	840	3857	4.59	27	296.69
Northern Illinois	13	775	3880	5.01	28	298.46
Clemson	13	871	3899	4.48	25	299.92
Ole Miss	13	848	3994	4.71	30	307.23
Boise State	13	925	4006	4.33	21	308.15

TURNOVER MARGIN

	GAINED			LOST			
	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN/G
Oklahoma	15	19	34	2	9	11	1.64
Florida	9	26	35	8	5	13	1.57
Buffalo	25	8	33	8	6	14	1.36
Baylor	11	16	27	6	5	11	1.33
Wake Forest	19	18	37	13	7	20	1.31
Ohio State	14	15	29	7	6	13	1.23
Navy	14	16	30	10	5	15	1.15
California	10	24	34	9	10	19	1.15
Rice	15	16	31	9	7	16	1.15
Air Force	18	12	30	11	6	17	1.00
Utah	12	19	31	9	9	18	1.00
Virginia Tech	14	20	34	8	12	20	1.00
TCU	13	15	28	7	8	15	1.00
Southern Miss	12	17	29	7	9	16	1.00
UTEP	13	14	27	6	9	15	1.00
West Virginia	11	17	28	8	8	16	0.92
Minnesota	16	15	31	11	8	19	0.92
Arkansas State	9	15	24	7	8	15	0.75
Louisiana Tech	12	17	29	10	10	20	0.69
Vanderbilt	10	20	30	9	12	21	0.69

PASSING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	YDS/CMP	TD	YDS/G
Texas Tech	13	662	465	10	70.24	5371	8.11	47	413.2
Houston	13	610	411	11	67.38	5221	8.56	45	401.6
Oklahoma	14	517	350	9	67.70	4891	9.46	51	349.4
Missouri	14	565	404	18	71.50	4625	8.19	41	330.4
Rice	13	516	339	7	65.70	4254	8.24	48	327.2
BYU	13	493	338	14	68.56	4035	8.18	35	310.4
Texas	13	447	343	8	76.73	4008	8.97	36	308.3
Kansas	13	500	333	13	66.60	3973	7.95	33	305.6
Tulsa	14	423	270	21	63.83	4226	9.99	47	301.9
New Mexico State	12	492	330	16	67.07	3616	7.35	25	301.3
Western Michigan	13	535	346	10	64.67	3831	7.16	37	294.7
Central Michigan	13	480	317	8	66.04	3767	7.85	28	289.8
Boise State	13	438	298	11	68.04	3751	8.56	30	288.5
UTEP	12	448	258	9	57.59	3410	7.61	34	284.2
Nebraska	13	433	295	11	68.13	3653	8.44	27	281.0
Georgia	13	400	246	10	61.50	3610	9.03	27	277.7
SMU	12	476	269	25	56.51	3275	6.88	29	272.9
Rutgers	13	415	250	15	60.24	3515	8.47	26	270.4
Kansas State	12	425	250	10	58.82	3235	7.61	22	269.6
Illinois	12	393	223	16	56.74	3232	8.22	22	269.3
Eastern Michigan	12	499	308	13	61.72	3232	6.48	17	269.3

PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

	G	ATT	COMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	RATING
USC	13	382	199	52.09	19	4.97	1747	4.57	6	1.57	85.75
Boise State	13	449	234	52.12	22	4.90	2472	5.51	8	1.78	94.43
Florida	14	456	242	53.07	26	5.70	2518	5.52	12	2.63	96.76
TCU	13	384	193	50.26	15	3.91	2219	5.78	8	2.08	97.90
Iowa	13	463	256	55.29	23	4.97	2565	5.54	9	1.94	98.32
California	13	432	223	51.62	24	5.56	2509	5.81	12	2.78	98.44
Boston College	14	435	244	56.09	26	5.98	2477	5.69	9	2.07	98.81
San Jose State	12	356	187	52.53	16	4.49	2043	5.74	9	2.53	100.06
Connecticut	13	368	196	53.26	18	4.89	2187	5.94	9	2.45	101.51
Clemson	13	428	239	55.84	19	4.44	2243	5.24	14	3.27	101.74
Tennessee	12	332	186	56.02	17	5.12	1925	5.80	8	2.41	102.42
Wake Forest	13	382	199	52.09	18	4.71	2243	5.87	15	3.93	104.96
Ohio State	13	440	253	57.50	15	3.41	2386	5.42	12	2.73	105.23
Alabama	14	467	246	52.68	15	3.21	2651	5.68	18	3.85	106.68
Arizona	13	407	228	56.02	16	3.93	2365	5.81	12	2.95	106.68
West Virginia	13	428	240	56.07	17	3.97	2565	5.99	11	2.57	106.98
Troy	13	423	232	54.85	21	4.96	2441	5.77	18	4.26	107.39
UCF	12	398	208	52.26	18	4.52	2492	6.26	14	3.52	107.46
Penn State	13	399	225	56.39	16	4.01	2429	6.09	10	2.51	107.79
Utah	13	409	225	55.01	19	4.65	2470	6.04	15	3.67	108.54

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Oklahoma	14	716	99	51.14
Tulsa	14	661	90	47.21
Texas Tech	13	569	79	43.77
Florida	14	611	82	43.64
Texas	13	551	74	42.38
Missouri	14	591	76	42.21
Oregon	13	545	71	41.92
Rice	13	537	74	41.31
Oklahoma State	13	530	69	40.77
Houston	13	528	71	40.62
Penn State	13	506	63	38.92
Nevada	13	489	64	37.62
Boise State	13	489	63	37.62
USC	13	488	66	37.54
Utah	13	480	59	36.92
Arizona	13	476	62	36.62
Nebraska	13	460	58	35.38
Ball State	14	489	63	34.93
Kansas State	12	419	56	34.92
BYU	13	445	59	34.23

SCORING DEFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
USC	13	117	14	9.0
TCU	13	147	18	11.3
Boise State	13	164	21	12.6
Florida	14	181	21	12.9
Iowa	13	169	17	13.0
Ohio State	13	181	21	13.9
Alabama	14	200	25	14.3
Penn State	13	187	22	14.4
Virginia Tech	14	234	27	16.7
Tennessee	12	201	20	16.8
West Virginia	13	221	27	17.0
Utah	13	224	28	17.2
Clemson	13	225	25	17.3
Auburn	12	216	27	18.0
Northern Illinois	13	234	28	18.0
Wake Forest	13	238	27	18.3
Boston College	14	257	31	18.4
Texas	13	244	29	18.8
Rutgers	13	245	28	18.8
Ole Miss	13	247	30	19.0

'08 FCS NCAA STATISTICS

COURTESY OF THE NCAA

—compiled by Tyler Nelson

PASSING EFFICIENCY (MINIMUM OF 15 ATTEMPTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	ATT	CMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	PCT	RATING
Jonathan Dally, Cal Poly	SR	11	202	116	57.43	5	2.48	1960	9.70	23	11.39	171.6
Armanti Edwards, Appalachian State	JR	13	306	196	64.05	9	2.94	2902	9.48	30	9.80	170.2
Cameron Higgins, Weber State	SO	14	464	304	65.52	13	2.80	4460	9.61	36	7.76	166.3
Brock Smith, Liberty	SR	12	278	179	64.39	6	2.16	2620	9.42	19	6.83	161.8
Sebastian Trujillo, San Diego	JR	11	358	239	66.76	9	2.51	2822	7.88	35	9.78	160.2
Bradley George, Texas State	JR	12	301	181	60.13	6	1.99	2660	8.84	26	8.64	158.9
R.J. Toman, New Hampshire	SO	13	355	231	65.07	15	4.23	3110	8.76	28	7.89	156.2
Cole Bergquist, Montana	SR	16	371	225	60.65	8	2.16	3156	8.51	28	7.55	152.7
Brandon Summers, Youngstown State	JR	10	195	122	62.56	7	3.59	1540	7.90	18	9.23	152.2
Ryan Berry, South Dakota State	SR	12	395	256	64.81	13	3.29	3106	7.86	30	7.59	149.3
Dustin Taliaferro, Samford	FR	11	225	151	67.11	5	2.22	1745	7.76	13	5.78	146.9
Derrick Fourroux, McNeese State	JR	11	276	169	61.23	5	1.81	2205	7.99	18	6.52	146.2
Chris Pizzotti, Harvard	SR	10	308	193	62.66	4	1.30	2490	8.08	17	5.52	146.2
Curtis Pulley, Florida A&M	JR	11	178	98	55.06	5	2.81	1382	7.76	17	9.55	146.2
Pat Grace, Northern Iowa	JR	12	244	152	62.30	7	2.87	2041	8.36	14	5.74	145.8
Antonio Hefner, Tennessee State	SR	11	249	149	59.84	12	4.82	2237	8.98	15	6.02	145.5
Liam Coen, Massachusetts	SR	12	335	206	61.49	15	4.48	2749	8.21	24	7.16	145.1
Zach MacDowall, Coastal Carolina	SO	11	256	157	61.33	6	2.34	2064	8.06	16	6.25	145.0
Devin Campbell, Gardner-Webb	SR	9	220	139	63.18	3	1.36	1774	8.06	11	5.00	144.7
Greg Denham, UC Davis	SO	11	451	296	65.63	16	3.55	3478	7.71	27	5.99	143.1
Matt Kobli, Butler	SO	11	358	237	66.20	7	1.96	2518	7.03	23	6.42	142.6
Josh McGregor, Jacksonville	FR	13	305	172	56.39	11	3.61	2444	8.01	24	7.87	142.5
Dominic Randolph, Holy Cross	JR	11	520	340	65.38	17	3.27	3838	7.38	34	6.54	142.4
Greg Sullivan, Colgate	SO	12	206	125	60.68	7	3.40	1695	8.23	12	5.83	142.2
Cade Thompson, Tennessee-Martin	JR	12	328	190	57.93	14	4.27	2680	8.17	24	7.32	142.2

TOTAL OFFENSE

			RUSHING				PASSING		TOTAL OFFENSE			
	YEAR	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YDS/PL	YDS/G
Dominic Randolph, Holy Cross	JR	11	65	197	118	79	520	3838	585	3917	6.70	356.1
Rhett Bomar, Sam Houston State	SR	10	81	351	164	187	436	3355	517	3542	6.85	354.2
Jeremy Moses, Stephen F. Austin	SO	12	56	131	205	-74	598	4026	654	3952	6.04	329.3
Cameron Higgins, Weber State	SO	14	55	145	222	-77	464	4460	519	4383	8.45	313.1
Matt Nichols, Eastern Washington	JR	11	56	223	140	83	451	3293	507	3376	6.66	306.9
Greg Denham, UC Davis	SO	11	44	47	211	-164	451	3478	495	3314	6.69	301.3
Armanti Edwards, Appalachian State	JR	13	193	1169	228	941	306	2902	499	3843	7.70	295.6
Bryant Lee, Southern	JR	11	139	628	94	534	352	2682	491	3216	6.55	292.4
Nathan Ford, Cornell	SR	10	59	168	134	34	436	2815	495	2849	5.76	284.9
Drew Hubel, Portland State	SO	10	28	13	137	-124	393	2912	421	2788	6.62	278.8
Michael Dougherty, Brown	SR	10	24	158	66	92	384	2677	408	2769	6.79	276.9
Sean Schaefer, Towson	SR	12	83	275	273	2	459	3286	542	3288	6.07	274.0
Matt Kobli, Butler	SO	11	117	629	136	493	358	2518	475	3011	6.34	273.7
Chris Pizzotti, Harvard	SR	10	87	332	146	186	308	2490	395	2676	6.77	267.6
Sebastian Trujillo, San Diego	JR	11	39	107	74	33	358	2822	397	2855	7.19	259.5
Rob Florian, Dayton	SR	10	81	308	61	247	354	2345	435	2592	5.96	259.2
R.J. Toman, New Hampshire	SO	13	106	433	214	219	355	3110	461	3329	7.22	256.1
Jonathan Dally, Cal Poly	SR	11	152	887	66	821	202	1960	354	2781	7.86	252.8
Ryan Berry, South Dakota State	SR	12	71	149	246	-97	395	3106	466	3009	6.46	250.8
Russel Hill, Idaho State	SO	10	48	92	220	-128	408	2634	456	2506	5.50	250.6
Antonio Hefner, Tennessee State	SR	11	115	683	180	503	249	2237	364	2740	7.53	249.1
Paul Roberts, Mississippi Valley State	JR	9	89	359	167	192	304	2039	393	2231	5.68	247.9
Brian Babin, Southeastern Louisiana	JR	11	80	170	254	-84	412	2806	492	2722	5.53	247.5
Bryan Waggener, Northern Colorado	JR	11	96	387	217	170	397	2546	493	2716	5.51	246.9
Jeff Ehrhardt, Murray State	SO	9	78	402	81	321	266	1885	344	2206	6.41	245.1

ALL-PURPOSE YARDAGE

	YEAR	G	RUSH	REC	PR	KOR	PLAYS	YDS/PL	YDS	YDS/GM
Nick Miller, Southern Utah	SR	11	9	763	384	993	2149	16.40	131	195.36
William Osborne, Texas Southern	JR	12	36	1092	349	831	2308	14.89	155	192.33
Larry Warner, Southern Illinois	SR	12	1265	203	189	592	2249	8.15	276	187.42
David McCarty, Albany (N.Y.)	JR	12	1852	356	0	0	2208	5.75	384	184.00
A.J. Kizekai, Bucknell	JR	10	484	383	0	973	1840	10.89	169	184.00
Karrington Bush, Texas State	SO	13	1065	210	0	1055	2330	11.65	200	179.23
Aaron Woods, Portland State	JR	11	19	1028	13	908	1968	18.39	107	178.91
Toddrick Pendland, McNeese State	JR	11	1431	349	0	147	1927	7.27	265	175.18
Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois	SR	11	1784	76	0	0	1860	5.52	337	169.09
Treyvn Smith, Weber State	JR	14	1585	778	0	0	2363	6.62	357	168.79
David Sinisi, Monmouth	JR	11	1674	103	0	12	1789	5.94	301	162.64
Jonathan Grimes, William & Mary	FR	11	929	314	0	539	1782	7.92	225	162.00
Roren Thomas, Tennessee-Martin	JR	11	363	790	0	621	1774	19.93	89	161.27
Andre Roberts, Citadel	JR	12	94	1334	461	31	1920	13.24	145	160.00
Terrence Holt, Austin Peay	SO	11	287	26	135	1285	1733	13.75	126	157.55
Rashad Jennings, Liberty	SR	11	1500	190	0	0	1690	5.89	287	153.64
Bryan Walters, Cornell	JR	10	0	643	179	708	1530	15.45	99	153.00
Dominic Bolden, Liberty	SR	12	85	1056	308	365	1814	18.51	98	151.17
Buddy Farnham, Brown	JR	10	89	816	229	361	1495	12.25	122	149.50
Gerald Stevenson, Charleston Southern	SO	12	298	551	10	921	1780	14.02	127	148.33
James Mallory, Central Conn. State	JR	11	1520	85	0	0	1605	5.39	298	145.91
Demetrius Crawford, Montana State	SR	12	1314	101	0	295	1710	6.13	279	142.50
Kyle Minett, South Dakota State	SO	12	1289	415	0	0	1704	5.70	299	142.00
Marc Mariani, Montana	JR	16	12	1308	373	572	2265	19.19	118	141.56
Maurice Dupree, Jacksonville State	SR	11	26	799	193	537	1555	17.47	89	141.36

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	REC	YDS	TD	REC/G
John Matthews, San Diego	SR	11	102	1478	21	9.27
Andre Roberts, Citadel	JR	12	95	1334	14	7.92
Tysson Poots, Southern Utah	SO	11	83	1236	14	7.55
Terrell Hudgins, Elon	JR	12	86	1116	10	7.17
Steve Tedesco, Sacred Heart	JR	11	77	891	10	7.00
Tony Washington, Sacramento State	SR	12	83	1279	12	6.92
Dobson Collins, Gardner-Webb	SR	11	76	937	10	6.91
Juamorris Stewart, Southern	JR	11	76	1138	12	6.91
Mario D'Ambrosio, Portland State	JR	11	76	900	9	6.91
Bobby Sewall, Brown	JR	10	69	948	8	6.90
William Osborne, Texas Southern	JR	12	82	1092	7	6.83
Duane Brooks, Stephen F. Austin	JR	10	68	863	4	6.80
Jesse Baker, Cornell	SR	10	66	725	6	6.60
Shaun Pasternak, Bucknell	SO	11	72	1083	12	6.55
Raja Andrews, Georgia Southern	SR	10	64	873	5	6.40
Dan Bohrer, Butler	JR	11	70	953	11	6.36
Eddie Thompson, Idaho State	SR	11	70	754	2	6.36
Buddy Farnham, Brown	JR	10	63	816	6	6.30
Tim Mastrino, Iona	SR	11	69	744	6	6.27
Ramses Barden, Cal Poly	SR	11	67	1257	18	6.09

INTERCEPTIONS PER GAME

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	TD	INT/G
Mark LeGree, Appalachian State	SO	13	10	32	0	0.77
Donte Washington, Campbell	FR	9	6	73	0	0.67
Anthony Curry, Valparaiso	JR	11	7	105	1	0.64
Rory Foley, Marist	SO	11	7	95	0	0.64
Dave Casale, Albany (N.Y.)	JR	12	7	52	1	0.58
Kevis Buckley, Austin Peay	JR	11	6	70	1	0.55
Andy Green, Drake	SR	11	6	61	1	0.55
Deshawn Shead, Portland State	FR	11	6	12	0	0.55
Philip Ashley, Charleston Southern	JR	12	6	117	0	0.50
Zach Denton, Eastern Kentucky	SR	12	6	99	0	0.50
Desmond Lenard, Grambling State	JR	12	6	98	1	0.50
Korey Lindsey, Southern Illinois	SO	12	6	81	1	0.50
Anthony Beck, Prairie View A&M	JR	10	5	133	2	0.50
Chris Wynn, Pennsylvania	JR	10	5	0	0	0.50
Nate Thellen, Northeastern	SO	11	5	113	1	0.45
Al-Rilwan Adeyemi, San Diego	FR	11	5	94	2	0.45
Darren Hunter, Savannah State	SO	11	5	64	0	0.45
K.J. Gerard, Northern Arizona	SR	11	5	46	0	0.45
Michael Landers, Robert Morris	JR	11	5	41	0	0.45
Tim Harvey, Drake	SO	11	5	25	0	0.45
Bryce Smith, Samford	SO	11	5	19	0	0.45

SCORING

	YEAR	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PT/G
Treyvn Smith, Weber State	JR	14	28	0	0	168	12.00
Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois	SR	11	22	0	0	132	12.00
David Sinisi, Monmouth	JR	11	22	0	0	132	12.00
Dane Romero, Wofford	SR	12	23	0	0	138	11.50
John Matthews, San Diego	SR	11	21	0	0	126	11.45
Rashad Jennings, Liberty	SR	11	19	0	0	114	10.36
Jordan Scott, Colgate	SR	9	15	0	0	90	10.00
Ramses Barden, Cal Poly	SR	11	18	0	0	108	9.82
Javarris Williams, Tennessee State	SR	10	16	0	0	96	9.60
Kyle Minett, South Dakota State	SO	12	18	0	0	112	9.33
Dominique Edison, Stephen F. Austin	SR	12	18	0	0	108	9.00
Andre Roberts, Citadel	JR	12	18	0	0	108	9.00
Obozua Ehikioya, Marist	SR	11	16	0	0	96	8.73
Chase Reynolds, Montana	SO	16	23	0	0	138	8.63
David McCarty, Albany (N.Y.)	JR	12	17	0	0	102	8.50
Bobby Sewall, Brown	JR	10	14	0	0	84	8.40
James Aston, Sam Houston State	JR	10	14	0	0	84	8.40
Andrew Wilcox, Elon	SR	12	0	33	22	99	8.25
Toddrick Pendland, McNeese State	JR	11	15	0	0	90	8.18
James Mallory, Central Conn. State	JR	11	15	0	0	90	8.18

RUSHING

	YEAR	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Herb Donaldson, Western Illinois	SR	11	324	1784	5.51	21	162.18
David McCarty, Albany (N.Y.)	JR	12	357	1852	5.19	13	154.33
David Sinisi, Monmouth	JR	11	286	1674	5.85	22	152.18
James Mallory, Central Conn. State	JR	11	288	1520	5.28	15	138.18
Rashad Jennings, Liberty	SR	11	263	1500	5.70	17	136.36
Toddrick Pendland, McNeese State	JR	11	219	1431	6.53	12	130.09
Jordan Scott, Colgate	SR	9	221	1148	5.19	15	127.56
Rodney Landers, James Madison	SR	14	268	1770	6.60	16	126.43
Jordan Culbreath, Princeton	JR	10	213	1206	5.66	10	120.60
Ed Gowins, Stony Brook	FR	11	140	1310	9.36	11	119.09
Josh Vaughan, Richmond	SR	16	355	1884	5.31	20	117.75
Chris Evans, Samford	SO	11	260	1284	4.94	14	116.73
William Ford, South Carolina State	JR	13	246	1499	6.09	13	115.31
Tim Maypray, VMI	JR	11	195	1266	6.49	12	115.09
Myles Russ, Robert Morris	SO	11	215	1255	5.84	6	114.09
Treyvn Smith, Weber State	JR	14	295	1585	5.37	21	113.21
Xavier Martin, Fordham	SO	11	274	1237	4.51	7	112.45
Tony Nelson, Massachusetts	JR	12	243	1325	5.45	12	110.42
Devan James, Morgan State	SO	12	291	1320	4.54	8	110.00
Demetrius Crawford, Montana State	SR	12	251	1314	5.24	8	109.50

PUNT RETURNS (MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Andre Roberts, Citadel	JR	24	461	3	19.21
Austin Knowlin, Columbia	JR	12	222	2	18.50
Dominic Bolden, Liberty	SR	17	308	2	18.12
Marc Mariani, Montana	JR	23	373	2	16.22
Nick Miller, Southern Utah	SR	24	384	1	16.00
LeRoy Vann, Florida A&M	JR	29	464	3	16.00
William Osborne, Texas Southern	JR	22	349	0	15.86
Elliott Finkley, Jacksonville	SO	39	611	3	15.67
Jeremy Gilchrist, Hampton	SR	28	437	3	15.61
Tom Nelson, Illinois State	SR	17	265	1	15.59
Kiare Thompson, Grambling State	SO	31	463	0	14.94
Raja Andrews, Georgia Southern	SR	20	280	1	14.00
Jamaal Akbar, Tennessee-Martin	SR	20	278	1	13.90
Nicholas Andrews, Alabama State	FR	19	255	0	13.42
Scotty McGee, James Madison	JR	23	296	3	12.87
Corey Council, Bethune-Cookman	SR	17	211	1	12.41
Bryant Eteuati, Weber State	SR	24	291	0	12.13
De'Angelo Wilson, Youngstown State	SR	18	216	1	12.00
John Popper, Valparaiso	JR	16	192	1	12.00
Nick Feldman, Morehead State	SR	34	404	0	11.88

PUNTING (MINIMUM OF 3.6 PUNTS PER GAME)

	YEAR	G	NO	YDS	AVG
Brett Arnold, Massachusetts	SR	12	46	2080	45.22
Robbie Dehaze, Northern Arizona	SR	11	49	2212	45.14
Doug Spada, Southeast Missouri State	JR	12	47	2103	44.74
Robert Ranney, Brown	SR	10	43	1879	43.70
Scott Ravanesi, Southern Illinois	JR	12	52	2251	43.29
Jahmal Blanchard, Hampton	JR	11	58	2498	43.07
Jason Leo, Lehigh	SR	11	44	1890	42.95
Trevor Ward, Southern Utah	JR	11	63	2695	42.78
Patrick Dolan, Nicholls State	SO	9	38	1611	42.39
Jon Vanderwielen, Idaho State	JR	12	65	2754	42.37
Oscar De Alba, Sacramento State	SR	12	49	2076	42.37
Fritz Brayton, Eastern Washington	SR	11	52	2201	42.33
Justin Keable, Bethune-Cookman	SO	11	44	1856	42.18
Aaron Haire, South Carolina State	JR	12	58	2431	41.91
Eric Fisher, Montana State	JR	12	68	2841	41.78
David Miller, William & Mary	SO	11	45	1869	41.53
Kash Kiefer, Maine	SR	13	62	2572	41.48
Mark Kaspar, Citadel	SR	12	50	2067	41.34
Mason Webb, Morehead State	SR	12	73	3011	41.25
Ken Wood, Montana	FR	15	60	2474	41.23

FIELD GOALS

	YEAR	G	FGA	FGM	PCT	FG/G
Gavin Hallford, Jacksonville State	JR	11	29	22	0.759	2.00
Jeff Turner, Southeastern La.	SO	9	20	17	0.850	1.89
Taylor Rowan, Western Illinois	JR	11	31	19	0.613	1.73
Robbie Dehaze, Northern Arizona	JR	11	24	18	0.750	1.64
Dan Carpenter, Montana	SR	12	23	19	0.826	1.58
Peter Gaertner, Delaware State	SR	12	25	19	0.760	1.58
Jesse Hartley, Georgia Southern	JR	11	24	17	0.708	1.55
Piotr Czech, Wagner	SR	11	19	16	0.842	1.45
Jeremy Licea, Alabama A&M	SO	11	21	16	0.762	1.45
Billy Hallgren, Northern Iowa	FR	12	25	17	0.680	1.42
Eric Perri, Jackson State	SO	12	24	17	0.708	1.42
Alan Kimball, Yale	SR	10	17	14	0.824	1.40
Jon Striefsky, Delaware	SO	15	24	21	0.875	1.40
Justin Castellat, Norfolk State	SO	11	25	15	0.600	1.36
Noah Greenbaum, Liberty	SR	11	19	15	0.789	1.36
James Meade, Morgan State	JR	10	18	13	0.722	1.30
Steve Morgan, Brown	SR	10	19	13	0.684	1.30
Scott Beckler, Furman	SR	11	22	14	0.636	1.27
Brian Palmer, Youngstown State	JR	11	15	14	0.933	1.27
Mark Prevost, Samford	FR	11	21	14	0.667	1.27
Doug Spada, Southeast Mo. State	SO	11	22	14	0.636	1.27
Andrew Wilcox, Elon	JR	11	24	14	0.583	1.27
Taylor Wilkins, Sam Houston State	SO	11	18	14	0.778	1.27
Rob Zarrilli, Hofstra	SR	11	26	14	0.538	1.27

KICKOFF RETURNS (MINIMUM OF 1.2 RETURNS PER GAME)

	YEAR	NO	YDS	TD	AVG
Kevin Teel, Hampton	SR	15	553	2	36.87
Larry Warner, Southern Illinois	SR	19	592	3	31.16
LeRoy Vann, Florida A&M	JR	37	1101	3	29.76
Lardarius Webb, Nicholls State	SR	16	472	1	29.50
Scotty McGee, James Madison	JR	22	640	1	29.09
Nkosi Still, Brown	SR	12	342	0	28.50
Maurice Dupree, Jacksonville State	SR	19	537	1	28.26
Henry Sailes, Tennessee Tech	SO	16	449	1	28.06
Marcus Harris, Murray State	SO	16	431	0	26.94
Aaron Weaver, Hofstra	SO	21	557	0	26.52
Dwight Fluker-Berry, Norfolk State	SO	16	424	1	26.50
Brett McDermott, Holy Cross	SR	17	448	1	26.35
A.J. Kizekai, Bucknell	JR	37	973	1	26.30
Chris Wynn, Pennsylvania	JR	17	443	1	26.06
Justin Perry, Northwestern State	SR	12	312	1	26.00
Aaron Woods, Portland State	JR	35	908	1	25.94
Tremaine Hudson, Tennessee Tech	FR	17	436	0	25.65
Jarred Herring, Northern Iowa	FR	24	613	0	25.54
Kenyon Blue, Idaho State	SR	18	459	0	25.50
Marquis Powell, Southeastern Louisiana	SR	24	610	0	25.42

RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Georgia Southern	11	613	3589	5.85	38	326.27
Wofford	13	771	4026	5.22	44	309.69
Appalachian State	15	755	4311	5.71	53	287.40
VMI	11	647	3097	4.79	23	281.55
Cal Poly	11	574	2994	5.22	25	272.18
Nicholls State	11	572	2930	5.12	28	266.36
James Madison	12	595	3181	5.35	37	265.08
Yale	10	537	2649	4.93	31	264.90
South Carolina State	11	516	2869	5.56	20	260.82
Central Conn. State	11	600	2834	4.72	29	257.64
Western Illinois	11	544	2812	5.17	25	255.64
Richmond	14	589	3284	5.58	39	234.57
Northern Arizona	11	496	2546	5.13	23	231.45
Rhode Island	11	622	2529	4.07	23	229.91
Northern Iowa	13	616	2956	4.80	39	227.38
Liberty	11	431	2375	5.51	32	215.91
Northwestern State	11	522	2329	4.46	19	211.73
Morgan State	11	512	2328	4.55	21	211.64
Tennessee State	11	503	2319	4.61	26	210.82
Albany (N.Y.)	12	573	2507	4.38	28	208.92

RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Northern Arizona	11	307	658	2.14	12	59.8
Dayton	12	362	728	2.01	8	60.7
Prairie View A&M	10	259	657	2.54	7	65.7
Brown	10	291	771	2.65	3	77.1
Jackson State	12	384	971	2.53	9	80.9
Morehead State	12	395	1004	2.54	7	83.7
Grambling State	13	378	1099	2.91	14	84.5
Montana State	12	406	1066	2.63	21	88.8
Pennsylvania	10	301	907	3.01	7	90.7
Lafayette	11	341	1014	2.97	10	92.2
Eastern Washington	11	369	1028	2.79	13	93.5
Richmond	16	503	1504	2.99	11	94.0
Morgan State	12	417	1136	2.72	10	94.7
Sacramento State	12	367	1167	3.18	17	97.3
Villanova	13	411	1298	3.16	11	99.8
Cal Poly	11	342	1127	3.30	19	102.5
Samford	11	372	1140	3.06	11	103.6
Columbia	10	387	1043	2.70	16	104.3
South Carolina State	13	512	1381	2.70	12	106.2
Northern Iowa	15	493	1607	3.26	17	107.1

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Cal Poly	11	734	5362	7.31	67	487.45
Wofford	12	814	5606	6.89	60	467.17
McNeese State	11	799	5105	6.39	56	464.09
Appalachian State	14	958	6491	6.78	72	463.64
Sam Houston State	10	748	4573	6.11	46	457.30
Holy Cross	11	831	5009	6.03	49	455.36
Weber State	14	920	6374	6.93	67	455.29
Texas State	13	892	5892	6.61	62	453.23
Liberty	12	786	5360	6.82	51	446.67
VMI	11	700	4785	6.84	51	435.00
UC Davis	12	885	5117	5.78	45	426.42
Colgate	12	843	4998	5.93	49	416.50
Stephen F. Austin	12	879	4988	5.67	56	415.67
Southern	11	810	4571	5.64	40	415.55
Jacksonville State	11	727	4489	6.17	47	408.09
Tennessee-Martin	12	779	4867	6.25	61	405.58
San Diego	11	727	4459	6.13	54	405.36
South Dakota State	12	857	4863	5.67	54	405.25
New Hampshire	13	837	5255	6.28	60	404.23
Tennessee State	12	821	4823	5.87	48	401.92

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLAYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS/G
Morgan State	12	676	2561	3.79	31	213.42
Jackson State	12	743	2862	3.85	32	238.50
Prairie View A&M	10	571	2420	4.24	17	242.00
Pennsylvania	10	598	2498	4.18	19	249.80
North Dakota State	11	682	2794	4.10	23	254.00
Dayton	12	789	3070	3.89	26	255.83
Grambling State	13	800	3426	4.28	22	263.54
Morehead State	12	753	3167	4.21	31	263.92
Drake	11	697	2929	4.20	25	266.27
Richmond	16	978	4301	4.40	28	268.81
South Carolina State	13	865	3536	4.09	28	272.00
Wagner	11	680	3155	4.64	39	286.82
Delaware State	11	682	3172	4.65	29	288.36
Yale	10	725	2905	4.01	11	290.50
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	12	794	3536	4.45	30	294.67
Bethune-Cookman	11	683	3281	4.80	27	298.27
Harvard	10	691	2993	4.33	22	299.30
Albany (N.Y.)	12	809	3610	4.46	27	300.83
Alabama State	11	674	3321	4.93	31	301.91
Lafayette	11	683	3335	4.88	24	303.18

TURNOVER MARGIN

	GAINED			LOST			
	FUM	INT	GAINED	FUM	INT	LOST	MARGIN/G
Grambling State	15	29	44	12	8	20	1.85
Savannah State	13	24	37	9	10	19	1.50
Richmond	14	29	43	12	7	19	1.50
Northern Iowa	16	24	40	10	8	18	1.47
Yale	9	19	28	12	3	15	1.30
Samford	12	18	30	10	6	16	1.27
Central Conn. State	10	16	26	7	5	12	1.27
Norfolk State	18	16	34	7	13	20	1.17
Eastern Kentucky	11	21	32	10	8	18	1.17
Harvard	9	15	24	8	5	13	1.10
Drake	15	14	29	6	11	17	1.09
New Hampshire	16	24	40	10	16	26	1.08
Montana	17	19	36	10	10	20	1.00
Wofford	9	13	22	7	4	11	0.92
Cal Poly	9	12	21	6	5	11	0.91
Southeastern Lousiana	21	9	30	12	8	20	0.83
Albany (N.Y.)	10	17	27	7	10	17	0.83
Maine	10	19	29	6	13	19	0.77
Valparaiso	8	17	25	9	8	17	0.73
Brown	14	7	21	4	10	14	0.70

PASSING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	YDS/CMP	TD	YDS/G
Portland State	11	559	307	20	54.92	4094	7.32	24	372.2
Holy Cross	11	523	340	17	65.01	3838	7.34	34	348.9
Stephen F. Austin	12	630	371	23	58.89	4149	6.59	41	345.8
Sam Houston State	10	449	250	13	55.68	3380	7.53	27	338.0
Weber State	14	479	312	13	65.14	4540	9.48	38	324.3
UC Davis	12	492	321	18	65.24	3708	7.54	28	309.0
Eastern Washington	11	458	277	14	60.48	3299	7.20	21	299.9
Cornell	10	450	276	19	61.33	2893	6.43	13	289.3
Idaho State	12	516	299	19	57.95	3396	6.58	17	283.0
Towson	12	469	308	16	65.67	3322	7.08	25	276.8
Southern	11	394	241	11	61.17	2992	7.59	21	272.0
Texas State	13	432	254	12	58.80	3499	8.10	34	269.2
San Diego	11	365	243	9	66.58	2960	8.11	37	269.1
Brown	10	384	220	10	57.29	2677	6.97	19	267.7
South Dakota State	12	415	270	13	65.06	3212	7.74	31	267.7
Gardner-Webb	11	397	246	9	61.96	2838	7.15	15	258.0
SE Louisiana	12	450	276	8	61.33	3087	6.86	29	257.3
Harvard	10	313	194	5	61.98	2493	7.96	18	249.3
Southern Utah	11	423	207	20	48.94	2742	6.48	23	249.3
Georgia Southern	11	408	236	17	57.84	2721	6.67	20	247.4

PASS-EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

	G	ATT	COMP	PCT	INT	INT%	YDS	YDS/ATT	TD	TD%	RATING
Grambling State	13	422	210	49.76	29	6.87	2327	5.51	7	1.66	87.85
Appalachian State	14	458	218	47.60	19	4.15	2442	5.33	12	2.62	92.74
Yale	10	364	205	56.32	19	5.22	1821	5.00	6	1.65	93.32
Morgan State	12	259	117	45.17	19	7.34	1425	5.50	14	5.41	94.58
Jacksonville	13	391	189	48.34	16	4.09	2072	5.30	14	3.58	96.45
Harvard	10	372	197	52.96	15	4.03	1904	5.12	11	2.96	97.69
Prairie View A&M	10	312	160	51.28	14	4.49	1763	5.65	9	2.88	99.31
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	12	349	176	50.43	15	4.30	1931	5.53	12	3.44	99.63
Dayton	12	427	210	49.18	15	3.51	2342	5.48	16	3.75	100.61
Savannah State	12	299	155	51.84	24	8.03	1971	6.59	9	3.01	101.05
Pennsylvania	10	297	160	53.87	15	5.05	1591	5.36	12	4.04	102.13
Richmond	16	475	272	57.26	29	6.11	2797	5.89	12	2.53	102.89
Jackson State	12	359	186	51.81	11	3.06	1891	5.27	17	4.74	105.54
Delaware State	11	252	131	51.98	15	5.95	1575	6.25	10	3.97	105.69
Bethune-Cookman	11	273	147	53.85	12	4.40	1581	5.79	10	3.66	105.74
Albany (N.Y.)	12	372	196	52.69	17	4.57	2181	5.86	17	4.57	107.89
Weber St.	14	461	238	51.63	19	4.12	2937	6.37	18	3.9	109.76
Florida A&M	12	407	219	53.81	16	3.93	2449	6.02	17	4.18	110.27
Jacksonville State	11	349	194	55.59	11	3.15	2172	6.22	10	2.87	111.03
Hampton	11	306	162	52.94	10	3.27	1879	6.14	13	4.25	111.96

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Cal Poly	11	488	67	44.36
James Madison	14	534	71	38.14
McNeese State	11	413	56	37.55
Tennessee-Martin	12	448	61	37.33
Appalachian State	14	522	72	37.29
Wofford	12	438	60	36.50
Texas State	13	473	62	36.38
New Hampshire	13	463	60	35.62
South Dakota State	12	427	54	35.58
Sam Houston State	10	353	46	35.30
San Diego	11	388	54	35.27
Weber State	14	493	67	35.21
Florida A&M	12	422	55	35.17
Stephen F. Austin	12	420	56	35.00
VMI	11	378	51	34.36
Holy Cross	11	378	49	34.36
Liberty	12	404	51	33.67
William & Mary	11	361	46	32.82
Western Illinois	11	355	47	32.27
Georgia Southern	11	350	46	31.82

SCORING DEFENSE

	G	PTS	TD	AVG
Yale	10	105	11	10.5
Prairie View A&M	10	128	17	12.8
Grambling State	13	170	22	13.1
Pennsylvania	10	151	19	15.1
Dayton	12	184	26	15.3
Richmond	16	250	28	15.6
South Carolina State	13	221	28	17.0
Lafayette	11	193	24	17.5
UNI	15	265	34	17.7
Montana	16	284	32	17.8
Harvard	10	178	22	17.8
Drake	11	196	25	17.8
Albany (N.Y.)	12	218	27	18.2
Liberty	12	224	29	18.7
Samford	11	207	25	18.8
San Diego	11	208	24	18.9
Brown	10	190	23	19.0
Bethune-Cookman	11	210	27	19.1
North Dakota State	11	211	23	19.2
Jacksonville	13	252	33	19.4

SAM BRADFORD
HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER

2008 RECAP

JAMES LANG / US PRESSWIRE

CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Results and statistics courtesy NCAA

FBS

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
ATLANTIC COAST								
ATLANTIC DIVISION								
Florida State	5	3	223	176	9	4	434	262
Boston College	5	3	206	204	9	5	346	257
Maryland	4	4	127	175	8	5	283	292
Wake Forest	4	4	133	144	8	5	273	238
Clemson	4	4	166	134	7	6	327	225
N.C. State	4	4	208	190	6	7	305	342
COASTAL DIVISION								
Virginia Tech	5	3	151	138	10	4	309	234
Georgia Tech	5	3	180	156	9	4	317	264
North Carolina	4	4	184	169	8	5	360	275
Miami (Fla.)	4	4	219	220	7	6	352	314
Virginia	3	5	125	143	5	7	193	260
Duke	1	7	139	212	4	8	241	281
BIG EAST								
Cincinnati	6	1	165	134	11	3	362	282
Pittsburgh	5	2	209	159	9	4	352	279
West Virginia	5	2	162	109	9	4	319	221
Rutgers	5	2	240	128	8	5	377	245
Connecticut	3	4	151	149	8	5	324	257
South Florida	2	5	136	162	8	5	359	260
Louisville	1	6	128	241	5	7	296	358
Syracuse	1	6	112	221	3	9	217	392
BIG TEN								
Penn State	7	1	271	109	11	2	506	187
Ohio State	7	1	238	98	10	3	359	181
Michigan State	6	2	201	208	9	4	326	287
Iowa	5	3	238	130	9	4	394	169
Northwestern	5	3	191	187	9	4	317	262
Wisconsin	3	5	206	227	7	6	357	345
Minnesota	3	5	136	210	7	6	302	322
Illinois	3	5	218	206	5	7	344	319
Purdue	2	6	175	196	4	8	296	301
Michigan	2	6	177	268	3	9	243	347
Indiana	1	7	116	328	3	9	246	423
BIG 12								
NORTH								
Missouri	5	3	325	213	10	4	591	381
Nebraska	5	3	284	272	9	4	460	371
Kansas	4	4	251	293	8	5	434	375
Kansas State	2	6	231	339	5	7	419	430
Colorado	2	6	135	257	5	7	242	351
Iowa State	0	8	176	334	2	10	304	430
SOUTH								
Texas	7	1	329	180	12	1	551	244
Oklahoma	7	1	441	246	12	2	716	343
Texas Tech	7	1	352	251	11	2	569	362
Oklahoma State	5	3	292	236	9	4	530	365
Baylor	2	6	199	257	4	8	336	352
Texas A&M	2	6	214	351	4	8	300	449
CONFERENCE USA								
EAST DIVISION								
East Carolina	6	2	187	156	9	5	328	295
Southern Miss	4	4	270	190	7	6	398	313
Memphis	4	4	227	209	6	7	353	353
UAB	3	5	178	255	4	8	273	375
Marshall	3	5	184	211	4	8	246	332
UCF	3	5	137	204	4	8	199	289
WEST DIVISION								
Tulsa	7	1	395	247	11	3	661	391
Rice	7	1	353	278	10	3	537	433
Houston	6	2	349	256	8	5	528	402
UTEP	4	4	295	302	5	7	395	444
Tulane	1	7	147	305	2	10	200	414
SMU	0	8	188	297	1	11	256	458
MID-AMERICAN								
EAST								
Buffalo	5	3	256	223	8	6	424	395
Bowling Green	4	4	236	183	6	6	332	278
Temple	4	4	207	180	5	7	281	277
Akron	3	5	264	289	5	7	360	375
Kent State	3	5	229	264	4	8	308	380
Ohio	3	5	196	233	4	8	289	327
Miami (Ohio)	1	7	144	270	2	10	221	392

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
MID-AMERICAN								
WEST								
Ball State	8	0	303	136	12	2	489	287
Western Michigan	6	2	219	187	9	4	372	324
Central Michigan	6	2	253	235	8	5	384	393
Northern Illinois	5	3	220	154	6	7	314	234
Eastern Michigan	2	6	210	317	3	9	309	427
Toledo	2	6	170	236	3	9	269	377
MOUNTAIN WEST								
Utah	8	0	298	125	13	0	480	224
TCU	7	1	264	68	11	2	437	147
BYU	6	2	262	196	10	3	445	285
Air Force	5	3	205	180	8	5	348	289
Colorado State	4	4	212	233	7	6	327	393
UNLV	2	6	196	274	5	7	307	391
New Mexico	2	6	146	137	4	8	253	273
Wyoming	1	7	86	248	4	8	152	333
San Diego State	1	7	136	344	2	10	231	446
PAC-10								
USC	8	1	325	80	12	1	488	117
Oregon	7	2	373	249	10	3	545	367
Oregon State	7	2	307	217	9	4	397	300
California	6	3	293	169	9	4	424	259
Arizona	5	4	306	204	8	5	476	277
Stanford	4	5	257	260	5	7	315	329
Arizona State	4	5	214	209	5	7	274	272
UCLA	3	6	154	229	4	8	212	348
Washington State	1	8	77	453	2	11	165	570
Washington	0	9	111	347	0	12	159	463
SOUTHEASTERN								
EAST								
Florida	7	1	359	100	13	1	611	181
Georgia	6	2	215	214	10	3	409	319
South Carolina	4	4	163	186	7	6	270	274
Vanderbilt	4	4	144	174	7	6	249	255
Tennessee	3	5	129	149	5	7	208	201
Kentucky	2	6	143	238	7	6	294	279
WEST								
Alabama	8	0	255	115	12	2	422	200
Ole Miss	5	3	208	149	9	4	417	247
LSU	3	5	207	254	8	5	402	314
Arkansas	2	6	167	248	5	7	263	374
Auburn	2	6	93	149	5	7	208	216
Mississippi State	2	6	97	204	4	8	183	296
SUN BELT								
Troy	6	1	252	117	8	5	426	277
Louisiana-Lafayette	5	2	254	224	6	6	397	404
Florida Atlantic	4	3	216	192	7	6	326	373
Arkansas State	4	3	182	170	6	6	324	285
Florida International	3	4	215	222	5	7	296	340
Middle Tennessee	3	4	170	182	5	7	274	299
Louisiana-Monroe	3	4	210	214	4	8	284	374
North Texas	0	7	134	312	1	11	240	571
WESTERN ATHLETIC								
Boise State	8	0	343	94	12	1	489	164
Louisiana Tech	5	3	233	215	8	5	320	308
Nevada	5	3	320	234	7	6	489	420
Hawaii	5	3	223	198	7	7	345	404
Fresno State	4	4	225	259	7	6	385	404
San Jose State	4	4	154	181	6	6	224	259
Utah State	3	5	223	231	3	9	288	416
New Mexico State	1	7	156	293	3	9	266	409
Idaho	1	7	148	320	2	10	235	513
INDEPENDENTS								
Navy					8	5	353	286
Notre Dame					7	6	321	288
Army					3	9	177	284
Western Kentucky					2	10	210	326

FCS

BIG SKY

	CONFERENCE W	L	PF	PA	OVERALL W	L	PF	PA
Montana	7	1	269	110	14	2	509	284
Weber State	7	1	287	172	10	4	493	317
Montana State	5	3	190	207	7	5	319	332
Eastern Washington	5	3	223	184	6	5	323	295
Northern Arizona	4	4	216	219	6	5	316	273
Sacramento State	3	5	198	253	6	6	319	324
Portland State	3	5	220	257	4	7	284	357
Northern Colorado	1	7	150	212	1	10	225	326
Idaho State	1	7	177	316	1	11	256	494

BIG SOUTH

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Liberty	5	0	186	74	10	2	404	224
Charleston Southern	3	2	87	93	7	5	277	268
Stony Brook	3	2	121	136	5	6	274	289
Gardner-Webb	2	3	106	126	5	6	267	261
Coastal Carolina	1	4	105	160	6	6	267	289
VMI	1	4	147	163	4	7	378	369

COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
NORTH								
New Hampshire	6	2	298	210	10	3	463	306
Maine	5	3	197	173	8	5	319	296
Massachusetts	4	4	216	200	7	5	345	321
Hofstra	2	6	158	255	4	8	265	346
Rhode Island	1	7	162	289	3	9	226	384
Northeastern	1	7	139	227	2	10	228	349
SOUTH								
James Madison	8	0	340	156	12	2	534	323
Villanova	7	1	226	143	10	3	382	278
Richmond	6	2	258	158	13	3	506	250
William & Mary	5	3	243	201	7	4	361	264
Delaware	2	6	96	185	4	8	210	249
Towson	1	7	175	311	3	9	243	423

GREAT WEST

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Cal Poly	3	0	169	91	8	3	488	292
UC Davis	2	1	111	98	5	7	342	326
North Dakota	1	2	69	80	6	4	321	263
South Dakota	1	2	95	103	6	5	412	205
Southern Utah	1	3	102	174	4	7	243	351

IVY LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Harvard	6	1	195	117	9	1	274	178
Brown	6	1	205	105	7	3	269	190
Penn	5	2	132	100	6	4	190	151
Yale	4	3	109	58	6	4	197	105
Princeton	3	4	125	143	4	6	183	214
Cornell	2	5	117	164	4	6	185	246
Columbia	2	5	122	172	2	8	171	245
Dartmouth	0	7	77	223	0	10	129	343

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
South Carolina State	8	0	281	93	10	3	387	221
Florida A&M	5	3	289	194	9	3	422	284
Bethune-Cookman	5	3	193	188	8	3	282	210
Hampton	5	3	194	175	6	5	272	260
Delaware State	5	3	181	149	5	6	220	228
Morgan State	4	4	154	161	6	6	240	234
Norfolk State	3	5	224	199	5	7	303	300
North Carolina A&T	1	7	80	298	3	9	172	366
Howard	0	8	131	270	1	10	197	337

MISSOURI VALLEY

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Northern Iowa	7	1	233	103	12	3	438	265
Southern Illinois	7	1	249	142	9	3	353	256
South Dakota State	6	2	288	168	7	5	427	348
Western Illinois	4	4	234	197	6	5	355	239
North Dakota State	4	4	225	175	6	5	329	211
Missouri State	3	5	181	269	4	7	266	389
Youngstown State	3	5	197	263	4	8	270	351
Illinois State	2	6	239	257	3	8	312	340
Indiana State	0	8	74	346	0	12	101	508

NORTHEAST

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Albany	7	0	216	104	9	3	313	218
Monmouth	6	1	210	134	7	4	288	225
Sacred Heart	4	3	185	183	8	3	320	254
Central Connecticut	4	3	211	128	7	4	330	246
Robert Morris	4	3	192	170	5	6	254	251
Duquesne	2	5	139	175	3	7	215	263
Wagner	1	6	78	200	3	8	171	280
St. Francis (Pa.)	0	7	82	219	0	11	125	357

OHIO VALLEY

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Eastern Kentucky	7	1	220	152	8	4	266	275
Jacksonville State	6	2	259	177	8	3	349	239
Tennessee-Martin	6	2	278	202	8	4	448	316
Tennessee State	5	3	245	196	8	4	375	287
Murray State	4	4	196	222	5	7	272	376
Eastern Illinois	3	5	176	179	5	7	272	281
Southeast Missouri State	2	6	172	218	4	8	262	364
Austin Peay	2	6	171	222	2	9	212	328
Tennessee Tech	1	7	148	297	3	9	240	420

PATRIOT LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Colgate	5	0	166	125	9	3	363	349
Holy Cross	5	1	199	123	7	4	378	284
Lehigh	4	2	194	136	5	6	282	231
Lafayette	3	3	164	119	7	4	277	193

PATRIOT LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Bucknell	2	4	132	200	5	6	269	339
Fordham	1	5	116	186	5	6	238	262
Georgetown	0	5	57	139	2	8	96	280

PIONEER FOOTBALL LEAGUE

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Jacksonville	7	1	302	132	9	4	401	252
San Diego	6	2	282	156	9	2	388	208
Dayton	6	2	238	114	9	3	339	184
Butler	4	4	237	217	6	5	326	269
Drake	4	4	166	164	6	5	219	196
Morehead State	4	4	188	174	6	6	294	244
Davidson	3	5	238	219	4	7	286	280
Valparaiso	2	6	158	292	3	8	202	336
Campbell	0	8	35	376	1	10	98	447

SOUTHERN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Appalachian State	8	0	323	152	11	3	522	303
Wofford	7	1	311	193	9	3	438	298
Elon	6	2	214	170	8	4	323	256
Furman	4	4	169	187	7	5	303	267
Georgia Southern	4	4	261	234	6	5	350	326
Samford	4	4	181	154	6	5	274	207
Citadel	2	6	201	248	4	8	328	394
Western Carolina	1	7	137	238	3	9	211	347
Chattanooga	0	8	94	315	1	11	153	455

SOUTHLAND

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Central Arkansas	6	1	262	188	10	2	450	308
Texas State	5	2	282	207	8	5	473	407
McNeese State	4	3	225	209	7	4	413	322
Northwestern State	4	3	172	191	7	5	320	339
Nicholls State	3	4	207	247	3	6	231	312
Southeastern Louisiana	2	5	188	221	5	7	327	389
Sam Houston State	2	5	232	246	4	6	353	331
Stephen F. Austin	2	5	246	305	4	8	420	475

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
EAST								
Jackson State	6	1	191	128	7	5	253	248
Alabama A&M	4	3	158	157	5	7	265	324
Alabama State	2	5	100	130	3	8	154	246
Mississippi Valley State	1	6	150	282	3	8	232	400
Alcorn State	1	6	130	173	2	10	181	349
WEST								
Grambling State	7	0	219	74	11	2	348	170
Prairie View A&M	6	1	177	96	9	1	307	128
Southern University	5	2	178	131	6	5	311	279
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	2	5	120	125	3	9	189	234
Texas Southern	1	6	130	257	4	8	292	472

INDEPENDENTS

	W	L	PF	PA
Bryant	7	4	239	229
Savannah State	5	7	230	241
Marist	4	7	224	251
N.C. Central	4	7	191	349
Presbyterian	4	8	266	416
Iona	3	8	210	420
Winston-Salem State	3	8	177	250

DIVISION II

CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

	CONFERENCE W	L	PF	PA	OVERALL W	L	PF	PA
EAST								
Elizabeth City State	7	0	252	66	7	4	361	203
Bowie State	4	3	137	118	5	4	188	158
Virginia State	4	3	167	112	5	5	221	202
St. Paul's	3	4	77	132	5	5	123	195
Virginia Union	3	4	204	129	5	5	277	159
WEST								
Fayetteville State	6	1	246	92	8	2	370	152
Shaw	6	1	317	111	8	3	447	198
St. Augustine's	3	4	100	91	4	6	178	194
Livingstone	3	4	75	179	3	7	160	350
Johnson C. Smith	2	5	149	300	3	7	222	375
Chowan	1	6	101	298	2	8	216	440

GREAT LAKES INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Grand Valley State	10	0	409	126	11	1	462	152
Ashland	8	2	376	278	9	4	452	383
Michigan Tech	7	3	295	301	8	3	321	322
Wayne State	7	3	208	151	8	3	222	224
Saginaw Valley	7	3	262	224	7	3	262	224
Hillsdale	6	4	265	230	7	4	314	236
Ferris State	5	5	168	216	6	5	182	228

DIVISION II

GREAT LAKES INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	CONFERENCE W	L	PF	PA	OVERALL W	L	PF	PA
Indianapolis	4	6	246	242	5	6	286	256
Northern Michigan	2	8	208	320	2	8	208	320
Northwood	2	8	215	310	2	8	215	310
Findlay	1	9	186	275	2	9	212	275
Tiffin	1	9	203	368	1	10	215	382

GREAT NORTHWEST ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Central Washington	8	0	343	180	10	2	504	287
Western Oregon	5	3	258	220	7	4	323	273
Western Washington	5	3	235	223	6	5	323	317
Dixie State	2	6	190	239	4	7	262	309
Humboldt State	0	8	117	281	2	9	169	357

GULF SOUTH

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Delta State	8	0	310	159	10	2	335	361
North Alabama	7	1	350	124	12	2	578	243
Valdosta State	6	2	236	154	9	3	340	224
Ouachita Baptist	5	3	236	245	7	3	341	297
Arkansas-Monticello	5	3	283	252	7	4	377	320
Henderson State	4	4	280	246	5	5	328	284
Arkansas Tech	4	4	270	284	5	5	305	336
West Alabama	2	6	183	217	4	7	283	273
Southern Arkansas	2	6	165	245	2	8	200	336
Harding	1	7	237	327	2	9	336	442
West Georgia	0	8	102	399	0	10	124	448

LONE STAR

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
NORTH								
Central Oklahoma	5	0	139	66	7	4	273	287
Southeastern Oklahoma	4	1	130	120	6	5	246	334
Texas A&M-Commerce	3	2	123	104	5	5	202	238
East Central	2	3	160	165	3	8	262	435
Southwestern Oklahoma	1	4	78	131	3	8	216	280
Northeastern State	0	5	118	162	1	10	202	350
SOUTH								
Abilene Christian	6	0	285	104	11	1	628	275
West Texas A&M	5	1	261	128	11	2	626	343
Tarleton State	3	3	143	176	8	3	336	240
Texas A&M-Kingsville	3	3	168	197	7	4	344	271
Midwestern State	3	3	161	161	6	4	252	232
Angelo State	1	5	73	177	3	8	155	272
Eastern New Mexico	0	6	120	268	2	9	253	388

MID-AMERICA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
NW Missouri State	9	0	372	117	10	1	600	288
Pittsburg State	8	1	340	263	10	1	462	306
Nebraska-Omaha	6	3	291	252	7	3	340	273
Central Missouri	5	4	302	260	7	4	380	282
Missouri Western St.	5	4	273	313	6	5	329	387
Washburn	4	5	182	206	6	5	244	236
Truman State	3	6	220	258	4	6	292	318
Emporia State	2	7	194	289	4	7	221	303
Missouri Southern	2	7	130	252	4	7	241	292
Fort Hays State	1	8	114	258	2	9	175	295

NORTHEAST-10

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
American International	7	0	242	121	9	2	346	188
Southern Connecticut	6	1	251	96	8	3	372	225
Merrimack	4	3	206	205	6	4	289	239
Bentley	4	3	138	188	5	6	208	325
Pace	3	4	149	189	4	6	216	267
Stonehill	2	5	144	125	4	6	227	180
Saint Anselm	1	6	87	231	2	8	143	316
Assumption	1	6	120	182	1	9	168	285
Western Washington	1	7	139	265	2	8	174	321

NORTHERN SUN

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
NORTH								
Minnesota-Duluth	6	0	300	73	15	0	613	173
St. Cloud State	5	1	190	85	7	4	309	190
Bemidji State	3	3	145	180	5	6	228	305
Mary	3	3	134	146	4	7	208	302
Minnesota St.-Moorhead	2	4	106	171	2	9	187	330
Minnesota-Crookston	1	5	70	255	2	9	166	470
Northern State	1	5	131	166	1	10	237	356
SOUTH								
Minnesota State	5	1	203	122	9	3	364	199
Wayne State (Neb.)	5	1	213	110	9	3	364	224
Augustana	4	2	193	155	8	4	369	255
SW Minnesota State	3	3	173	194	6	5	323	312
Winona State	3	3	205	173	6	5	353	284
Concordia-St. Paul	1	5	99	207	4	7	210	314
Upper Iowa	0	6	94	219	2	9	234	386

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
EASTERN								
West Chester	7	0	250	83	9	4	448	288
Bloomsburg	6	1	225	105	11	2	407	202
East Stroudsburg	5	2	263	192	9	2	387	262
Kutztown	4	3	152	172	5	6	238	270
Shippensburg	3	4	193	163	4	7	273	238
C.W. Post	2	5	169	164	3	8	225	309
Millersville	1	6	169	257	1	10	231	421
Cheyney	0	7	51	331	0	11	115	498

PENNSYLVANIA STATE ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
WESTERN								
California (Pa.)	7	0	254	113	12	2	498	281
Edinboro	5	2	217	103	9	2	355	144
Indiana (Pa.)	5	2	247	104	8	2	385	114
Mercyhurst	5	2	199	143	7	4	265	198
Slippery Rock	3	4	168	160	5	6	275	273
Gannon	2	5	142	200	4	7	226	301
Clarion	1	6	115	295	3	8	230	407
Lock Haven	0	7	52	276	0	11	86	409

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Chadron State	9	0	333	118	11	2	434	210
Colorado Mines	7	2	248	152	8	4	298	221
Nebraska-Kearney	7	2	356	137	7	4	389	214
Mesa State	6	3	235	213	6	5	269	284
Adams State	5	4	129	176	5	6	142	273
Colorado St.-Pueblo	3	6	127	198	4	6	151	211
New Mexico Highlands	3	6	154	247	3	8	164	352
Western New Mexico	2	7	217	300	2	8	220	335
Western State	2	7	185	264	2	8	185	306
Fort Lewis	1	8	83	262	2	9	111	320

SOUTH ATLANTIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Tusculum	5	2	294	240	9	4	452	350
Carson-Newman	5	2	278	192	7	4	447	268
Newberry	5	2	186	142	6	4	246	183
Wingate	4	3	246	209	8	3	353	273
Mars Hill	4	3	221	204	7	4	341	329
Catawba	4	3	195	163	6	4	292	213
Lenoir-Rhyne	1	6	168	292	3	8	276	352
Brevard	0	7	96	242	1	9	136	310

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Tuskegee	9	0	357	159	10	1	404	200
Albany State	6	3	260	138	7	4	309	182
Morehouse	6	3	224	234	6	4	241	262
Fort Valley State	6	3	235	171	6	5	240	254
Clark Atlanta	5	4	216	202	6	5	258	222
Benedict	4	5	170	221	5	6	190	276
Lane	4	5	244	246	4	7	272	306
Stillman	2	7	200	247	3	8	227	280
Miles	2	7	84	276	2	8	108	305
Kentucky State	1	8	275	371	3	8	337	427

WEST VIRGINIA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Glenville State	7	1	289	176	8	3	373	254
Seton Hill	6	2	253	220	10	3	351	334
West Liberty State	6	2	257	193	7	4	326	276
West Virginia State	5	3	221	237	7	3	335	263
Charleston	5	3	217	174	7	4	306	265
Shepherd	3	5	248	174	5	5	282	190
Fairmont State	3	5	195	176	5	6	266	255
West Virginia Wesleyan	1	7	130	260	1	10	179	357
Concord	0	8	99	299	0	11	123	461

INDEPENDENTS

	W	L	PF	PA
UNC Pembroke	9	1	326	112
Panhandle State (Okla.)	3	7	132	193
North Greenville (S.C.)	2	9	183	382

DIVISION III

AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

	CONFERENCE W	L	PF	PA	OVERALL W	L	PF	PA
Mary Hardin-Baylor	8	0	326	75	12	2	544	217
Hardin-Simmons	7	1	341	136	9	2	429	219
Louisiana College	5	3	197	154	7	3	228	173
East Texas Baptist	5	3	189	178	5	5	225	240
Mississippi College	5	3	250	142	5	5	284	233
Texas Lutheran	3	5	111	257	4	6	145	308
Sul Ross State	2	6	127	242	3	7	184	290
Howard Payne	1	7	121	309	2	8	147	335
McMurry	0	8	98	267	0	10	130	336

ATLANTIC CENTRAL

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Wesley	3	0	122	27	9	2	386	165
Salisbury	2	1	124	67	9	2	448	247
Frostburg State	1	2	40	100	3	6	169	278
Apprentice School	0	3	24	116	2	7	158	265

CENTENNIAL

	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Muhlenberg	7	1	274	123	9	2	339	178
Johns Hopkins	6	2	197	167	8	3	287	219
Moravian	6	2	213	145	8	3	280	196
Dickinson	5	3	234	183	6	4	289	218
Gettysburg	5	3	276	218	5	5	329	282
Franklin & Marshall	3	5	177	167	4	6	208	181
Ursinus	2	6	94	219	3	7	147	277
McDaniel	1	7	65	227	2	8	110	265
Juniata	1	7	114	195	1	9	135	239

DIVISION III

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
COLLEGE CONFERENCE OF ILLINOIS & WISCONSIN								
North Central (Ill.)	7	0	247	136	11	1	425	216
Wheaton (Ill.)	5	2	258	172	11	3	505	290
Augustana	5	2	231	115	7	3	291	134
Elmhurst	4	3	190	203	7	3	283	237
Illinois Wesleyan	3	4	174	166	6	4	281	253
Carthage	3	4	181	204	5	5	305	307
Millikin	1	6	110	200	3	7	192	264
North Park	0	7	119	314	1	9	175	389
EMPIRE EIGHT								
Ithaca	5	1	238	135	9	2	400	242
Hartwick	4	2	201	194	7	3	439	340
Alfred	4	2	176	124	7	4	318	223
St. John Fisher	4	2	198	124	7	4	314	246
Utica	2	4	92	154	3	7	172	246
Springfield	1	4	114	139	4	6	275	268
Norwich	0	5	49	198	2	8	165	320
HEARTLAND COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Franklin	7	0	296	106	11	2	524	317
Rose-Hulman	5	2	214	197	7	3	281	264
Anderson	4	3	193	174	5	5	274	267
Defiance	4	3	142	146	4	6	166	243
Manchester	3	4	163	157	5	5	258	226
Mt. St. Joseph	3	4	194	130	5	5	235	156
Hanover	2	5	169	255	2	7	223	335
Bluffton	0	7	73	279	1	9	103	377
IOWA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Wartburg	7	1	194	111	10	3	335	244
Buena Vista	6	2	146	123	7	3	231	144
Simpson	5	3	200	154	7	3	247	181
Loras	5	3	205	163	6	4	253	201
Central	4	4	152	167	4	6	226	179
Luther	4	4	119	122	5	5	164	145
Coe	4	4	171	160	4	6	196	208
Dubuque	1	7	128	206	2	8	186	259
Cornell	0	8	86	245	0	10	125	309
LIBERTY								
Hobart	6	1	163	100	9	2	252	194
Rensselaer	5	2	204	115	8	2	298	163
WPI	4	3	140	177	7	3	252	222
Union	4	3	219	181	5	4	257	226
Susquehanna	3	4	231	231	4	6	271	289
LIBERTY								
Rochester	3	4	144	145	3	7	181	250
Merchant Marine	2	5	119	194	3	7	166	262
St. Lawrence	1	6	138	215	1	9	151	296
MICHIGAN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION								
Trine	6	0	172	102	10	1	319	182
Adrian	6	1	173	66	8	2	278	124
Alma	3	3	189	206	5	5	351	300
Albion	3	3	96	138	4	6	143	201
Hope	3	3	179	154	3	7	263	327
Kalamazoo	1	5	147	229	2	8	227	357
Olivet	0	6	90	151	1	9	180	241
MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES COLLEGIATE								
Delaware Valley	5	2	177	119	8	3	278	202
Albright	5	2	131	108	8	3	248	186
Lycoming	5	2	145	131	7	4	238	214
Lebanon Valley	4	3	163	124	6	4	229	179
Wilkes	4	3	153	130	4	6	200	198
Widener	2	5	139	136	4	6	185	207
King's	2	5	72	137	3	7	140	210
FDU-Florham	1	6	96	191	3	7	175	274
MIDWEST								
Monmouth College	9	0	467	111	11	1	561	171
Ripon	8	1	290	112	8	2	303	126
St. Norbert	7	2	357	164	7	3	377	208
Carroll	6	3	205	139	7	3	260	153
Beloit	4	5	186	230	5	5	213	247
Illinois College	4	5	288	334	4	6	308	372
Lake Forest	3	6	137	275	3	7	150	310
Knox	2	7	154	333	3	7	180	333
Grinnell	2	7	121	334	3	7	147	359
Lawrence	0	9	123	296	1	9	144	309
MINNESOTA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
St. John's	6	2	160	101	8	3	218	159
Carleton	5	3	226	194	7	3	297	221
St. Thomas	5	3	189	170	7	3	265	180
Concordia-Moorhead	5	3	184	152	6	4	243	200
Gustavus Adolphus	4	4	182	199	6	4	233	232
St. Olaf	4	4	164	199	6	4	204	213
Bethel	4	4	131	117	5	5	176	137
Augsburg	3	5	206	239	5	5	285	277
Hamline	0	8	124	195	2	8	195	215
NEW ENGLAND FOOTBALL								
BOGAN								
Bridgewater State	6	1	265	139	7	3	348	213
Maine Maritime	6	1	290	164	7	4	419	321
Westfield State	4	3	201	117	6	4	253	190
Fitchburg State	4	3	245	263	4	6	323	404
Framingham State	3	4	155	2222	5	5	228	306
Coast Guard	3	4	156	182	3	6	170	242
Worcester State	2	5	151	227	2	8	207	319
Massachusetts Maritime	0	7	78	227	0	10	123	313
BOYD								
Plymouth State	7	0	231	91	10	2	360	197
Curry	6	1	268	136	10	2	405	270
UMass-Dartmouth	4	3	239	218	6	4	344	347
MIT	3	4	204	252	5	5	326	347
Salve Regina	3	4	142	173	4	5	206	229
Western New England	3	4	163	221	3	7	256	349
Endicott	2	5	179	220	3	7	226	298
Nichols	0	7	139	254	2	8	208	298
NEW ENGLAND SMALL COLLEGE								
Trinity (Conn.)	8	0	227	140	8	0	227	140
Williams	6	2	215	140	6	2	215	140
Amherst	5	3	175	144	5	3	175	144
Middlebury	5	3	275	216	5	3	275	216
Bowdoin	4	4	205	197	4	4	205	197
Tufts	4	4	182	156	4	4	182	156
Colby	3	5	92	158	3	5	92	158
Bates	2	6	118	249	2	6	118	249
Hamilton	2	6	136	158	2	6	136	158
Wesleyan	1	7	111	178	1	7	111	178
NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC								
SUNY-Cortland	9	0	313	178	11	2	413	268
Montclair State	7	2	204	134	8	3	231	182
Rowan	7	2	309	165	8	2	333	179
College at Brockport	6	3	289	244	7	4	373	339
Kean	6	3	294	249	7	4	341	255
College of New Jersey	4	5	230	257	4	6	271	299
William Paterson	3	6	197	227	4	6	218	240
Western Connecticut	2	7	186	274	2	8	213	304
Buffalo State	1	8	218	324	1	9	225	344
Morrisville State	0	9	176	374	1	9	215	382
NORTH COAST ATHLETIC								
Wabash	7	0	325	88	10	2	473	219
Wooster	6	1	170	105	8	2	242	152
Wittenberg	4	3	187	90	6	4	257	144
Denison	4	3	127	125	6	4	216	211
Allegheny	4	3	129	165	5	5	179	230
Earlham	4	3	205	199	4	6	261	328
NORTH COAST ATHLETIC								
Hiram	2	5	141	276	3	7	181	381
Oberlin	2	5	128	238	2	8	191	368
Ohio Wesleyan	2	5	86	119	2	8	103	213
Kenyon	0	7	159	252	1	9	237	373
NORTHERN ATHLETICS								
Aurora	7	0	263	62	9	2	369	166
Concordia (Wis.)	5	2	207	133	5	5	230	253
Lakland	5	2	189	115	5	5	210	203
Benedictine	4	3	151	126	4	6	184	245
Wisconsin Lutheran	3	4	123	162	4	6	173	243
Concordia (Chicago)	2	5	161	284	3	7	210	386
Rockford	2	5	146	181	2	8	188	306
Maranatha Baptist	0	7	67	244	0	10	95	332
NORTHWEST								
Willamette	6	0	282	109	11	1	498	233
Linfield	5	1	200	111	6	3	245	164
Whitworth	4	2	204	140	6	3	274	226
Pacific Lutheran	3	3	136	185	3	6	157	242
Menlo	2	4	155	156	3	7	237	258
Puget Sound	1	5	151	179	3	6	229	274
Lewis & Clark	0	6	72	320	1	8	167	430
OHIO ATHLETIC								
Mount Union	9	0	435	57	15	0	683	131
Otterbein	8	1	342	145	9	2	427	214
Baldwin-Wallace	5	4	221	201	5	5	256	243
Ohio Northern	5	4	192	167	5	5	195	187
Capital	4	5	206	214	5	5	240	228
John Carroll	4	5	161	159	5	5	202	173
Wilmington	4	5	171	256	4	6	178	277
Heidelberg	3	6	190	335	4	6	252	362
Muskingum	2	7	170	315	3	7	205	325
Marietta	1	8	105	344	2	8	126	362
OLD DOMINION ATHLETIC								
Catholic	4	2	214	176	9	2	346	240
Hampden-Sydney	4	2	170	141	8	2	308	244
Emory & Henry	4	2	127	100	6	4	209	159
Randolph-Macon	4	2	184	135	6	5	279	297
Bridgewater (Va.)	3	3	162	161	4	6	233	239
Guilford	1	5	133	237	4	6	260	344
Washington & Lee	1	5	146	186	4	6	236	273
PRESIDENTS' ATHLETIC								
Thomas More	6	0	222	105	8	3	325	214
Washington & Jefferson	5	1	242	103	11	2	532	305
Grove City	3	3	140	176	6	4	231	245
Westminster (Pa.)	3	3	129	202	5	5	219	319
Waynesburg	2	4	191	191	5	5	286	290
Bethany	1	5	172	257	3	7	280	368
Thiel	1	5	147	209	2	8	218	299

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BCS CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

FIESTA BOWL
Texas 24, Ohio State 21

ORANGE BOWL
Virginia Tech 20, Cincinnati 7

ROSE BOWL
USC 38, Penn State 24

SUGAR BOWL
Utah 31, Alabama 17

2008 BOWL GAMES RECAP

Alamo Bowl	Missouri 30, Northwestern 23
Armed Forces Bowl	Houston 34, Air Force 28
Capital One Bowl	Georgia 24, Michigan State 12
Champs Sports Bowl	Florida State 42, Wisconsin 13
Chick-fil-A Bowl	LSU 38, Georgia Tech 3
Cotton Bowl	Ole Miss 47, Texas Tech 34
EagleBank Bowl	Wake Forest 29, Navy 19
Emerald Bowl	California 24, Miami 17
Gator Bowl	Nebraska 26, Clemson 21
GMAC Bowl	Tulsa 45, Ball State 13
Hawaii Bowl	Notre Dame 49, Hawaii 21
Holiday Bowl	Oregon 42, Oklahoma State 31
Humanitarian Bowl	Maryland 42, Nevada 35
Independence Bowl	Louisiana Tech 17, Northern Illinois 10
International Bowl	Connecticut 38, Buffalo 20
Insight Bowl	Kansas 42, Minnesota 21
Las Vegas Bowl	Arizona 31, BYU 21
Liberty Bowl	Kentucky 25, East Carolina 19
Meineke Car Care Bowl	West Virginia 31, North Carolina 30
Motor City Bowl	Florida Atlantic 24, Central Michigan 21
Music City Bowl	Vanderbilt 16, Boston College 14
New Mexico Bowl	Colorado State 40, Fresno State 35
New Orleans Bowl	Southern Miss 30, Troy 27 (OT)
Outback Bowl	Iowa 31, South Carolina 10
Papajohns.com Bowl	Rutgers 29, NC State 23
Poinsettia Bowl	TCU 17, Boise State 16
St. Petersburg Bowl	USF 41, Memphis 14
Sun Bowl	Oregon State 3, Pittsburgh 0
Texas Bowl	Rice 38, Western Michigan 14

DIVISION III

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
ST. LOUIS INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
LaGrange	7	0	316	105	9	2	437	229
Huntingdon	6	1	321	78	8	2	417	158
Greenville	5	2	238	144	6	4	263	211
Westminster (Mo.)	4	3	238	171	4	5	265	242
MacMurray	3	4	180	238	4	6	259	321
Eureka	2	5	177	295	3	6	205	329
Blackburn	1	6	57	224	2	8	106	327
Principia	0	7	44	316	0	10	57	443
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Occidental	6	0	242	110	9	1	385	214
Cal Lutheran	5	1	181	78	7	2	230	123
Redlands	4	2	222	87	7	2	327	110
Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	3	3	107	135	4	5	183	207
La Verne	2	4	120	216	2	7	147	315
Pomona-Pitzer	1	5	145	258	2	7	217	347
Whittier	0	6	97	230	1	8	182	309
SOUTHERN COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Millsaps	7	0	335	98	11	1	513	193
DePauw	5	2	195	208	8	2	314	260
Trinity (Texas)	5	2	206	151	8	2	326	189
Centre	5	2	159	145	7	3	247	193
Austin	3	4	152	185	5	5	235	244
Rhodes	2	5	88	141	4	6	154	172
Sewanee	1	6	107	170	2	8	145	257
Colorado College	0	7	81	225	0	9	98	297
UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION								
Case Western Reserve	3	0	93	37	10	1	416	153
Carnegie Mellon	1	2	49	76	5	5	229	175
Washington (Mo.)	1	2	62	80	5	5	186	1888
Chicago	1	2	30	42	3	6	182	234
UPPER MIDWEST ATHLETIC								
Northwestern College	4	0	146	72	9	2	378	227
Martin Luther	2	2	129	113	7	3	383	225
Crown	2	2	154	107	5	4	283	243
Minnesota-Morris	1	3	63	98	3	6	133	184
St. Scholastica	0	4	54	156	1	7	193	304
USA SOUTH ATHLETIC								
Christopher Newport	7	0	192	108	8	2	263	201
Ferrum	5	2	169	119	7	3	245	166
N.C. Wesleyan	5	2	264	133	6	4	310	189
Averett	4	3	158	167	5	5	225	256
Maryville (Tenn.)	4	3	173	142	5	5	242	238
Shenandoah	2	5	153	170	3	7	190	216
Methodist	1	6	86	220	2	8	158	303
Greensboro	0	7	85	221	2	8	145	255
WISCONSIN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Wis.-Whitewater	6	1	228	81	13	2	518	202
Wis.-Stevens Point	6	1	145	121	9	2	244	184

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
WISCONSIN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC								
Wis-Eau Claire	4	3	159	101	6	4	208	153
Wis.-Stout	3	4	133	126	5	5	207	180
Wis.-La Crosse	3	4	163	145	3	7	203	227
Wis.-Oshkosh	2	5	65	194	4	5	96	223
Wis.-Platteville	2	5	95	158	4	6	146	215
Wis.-River Falls	2	5	137	199	3	7	202	282
INDEPENDENTS								
Husson					7	3	281	190
Chapman					5	4	214	160
Geneva					5	5	236	288
SUNY-Maritime					4	5	211	266
Macalester					4	6	160	263
Mount Ida					4	6	237	291
Birmingham-Southern					3	7	220	275
Becker					2	7	119	200
Gallaudet					2	8	71	166
St. Vincent					1	9	160	367

NAIA

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
CENTRAL STATES FOOTBALL LEAGUE								
Langston	5	0	154	46	10	3	324	214
Bacone (Okla.)	3	1	65	26	7	4	253	293
Northwestern Okla. St.	1	3	166	83	7	4	398	183
S. Nazarene (Okla.)	1	3	83	116	3	8	227	295
Texas College	1	3	65	128	2	8	149	219
SW Assem. of God (Texas)	0	1	7	41	4	5	181	245
DAKOTA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE								
Dickinson State (N.D.)	7	0	181	103	7	4	252	238
Jamestown (N.D.)	5	2	250	165	7	3	334	243
Minot State (N.D.)	5	2	223	176	6	4	288	279
Black Hills State (N.D.)	4	3	196	138	6	4	257	175
South Dakota Mines	3	4	168	158	5	5	313	198
Valley City State (N.D.)	3	4	241	193	5	5	329	264
Dakota State (S.D.)	1	6	127	215	3	7	227	286
Mayville State (S.D.)	0	7	57	295	1	9	94	355
FRONTIER CONFERENCE								
Carroll (Mont.)	10	0	332	100	13	1	453	200
Mont. St.-Northern	7	3	233	196	7	3	233	196
Eastern Oregon	4	6	283	320	5	6	310	330
Montana Tech	4	6	163	218	4	7	188	248
Rocky Mountain (Mont.)	3	7	270	375	4	7	304	394
Montana-Western	2	8	232	304	2	9	238	366
GREAT PLAINS ATHLETIC CONFERENCE								
Sioux Falls (N.D.)	10	0	386	57	14	0	511	83
Morningside (Iowa)	9	1	480	124	10	2	576	185

NAIA

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Northwestern (Iowa)	7	3	288	112	7	3	288	112
Dakota Wesleyan (S.D.)	7	3	257	155	7	3	257	155
Nebraska Wesleyan	7	3	200	112	7	3	200	112
Hastings (Neb.)	6	4	210	194	7	4	236	194
Midland Lutheran (Neb.)	5	5	200	156	6	5	248	193
Doane (Neb.)	3	7	188	239	4	7	203	251
Dana (Neb.)	2	8	109	369	3	8	151	383
Briar Cliff (Iowa)	2	8	102	294	2	9	119	314
Concordia (Neb.)	1	9	77	345	1	9	77	345
HEART OF AMERICA ATHLETIC CONFERENCE								
MidAmerica Nazarene	10	0	401	183	10	1	415	203
Lindenwood (Mo.)	9	1	385	153	11	2	521	270
Baker (Kan.)	8	2	370	176	8	4	397	297
Missouri Valley	7	3	365	165	7	3	365	165
Benedictine (Kan.)	6	4	284	190	7	4	320	203
Evangel (Mo.)	4	6	171	282	4	7	178	323
William Jewell (Mo.)	4	6	195	260	4	7	207	275
Central Methodist (Mo.)	3	7	170	248	3	8	189	295
Avila (Mo.)	2	8	91	285	3	8	115	292
Graceland (Iowa)	2	8	93	301	2	8	93	301
Culver-Stockton (Mo.)	0	10	117	399	0	11	124	469
KANSAS COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE								
Friends	9	0	414	140	10	1	452	191
Ottawa	7	2	357	163	8	2	380	166
Sterling	7	2	292	149	7	3	306	187
Kansas Weslyn	5	4	269	176	6	4	321	189
Bethel	5	4	205	183	6	4	230	207
Saint Mary	4	5	267	317	5	5	304	323
McPherson	3	6	215	256	4	6	258	270
Bethany	2	7	124	278	2	8	130	361
Tabor	2	7	172	403	2	8	187	434
Southwestern	1	8	103	353	1	9	106	402
MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE								
EAST								
Cumberlands (Ky.)	9	0	335	202	10	2	418	298
Union (Ky.)	7	2	308	233	9	3	369	332
Virgiana-Wise	5	3	310	266	8	3	455	290
Georgetown (Ky.)	4	4	286	227	5	5	361	279
Campbellsville (Ky.)	3	7	315	380	3	8	329	430
Pikeville (Ky.)	1	8	129	338	2	9	166	372
West Virginia Tech	0	8	186	342	0	11	233	447
WEST								
Shorter (Ga.)	6	2	223	155	9	3	330	234
Lambuth (Tenn.)	7	2	391	219	8	4	522	356
Cumberland (Tenn.)	4	4	256	274	6	5	351	338
Bethel (Tenn.)	3	4	193	169	4	6	255	209
Belhaven (Miss.)	1	6	146	273	2	9	240	407
Faulkner (Ala.)	0	5	138	339	2	9	145	422
MID-STATES FOOTBALL ASSOC.-MIDEAST								
St. Francis (Ind.)	6	0	297	87	12	1	585	168
Ohio Dominican	4	2	166	111	7	3	347	142
Saint Xavier (Ill.)	4	2	175	120	7	4	357	178

	CONFERENCE				OVERALL			
	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Malone (Ohio)	4	2	186	177	6	4	323	270
Marian (Ind.) College	2	4	134	285	7	4	276	379
Walsh (Ohio)	1	5	117	174	3	8	234	276
Taylor (Ind.)	0	6	85	206	2	8	156	276
MID-STATES FOOTBALL ASSOC.-MIDWEST								
St. Ambrose (Iowa)	6	1	209	95	8	4	299	238
William Penn (Iowa)	5	2	215	188	7	4	283	265
McKendree (Ill.)	5	2	183	63	6	4	223	167
Quincy (Ill.)	5	2	192	153	6	5	225	313
Saint Francis (Ill.)	3	4	145	141	7	4	254	212
Olivet Nazarene (Ill.)	3	4	140	152	4	7	196	306
Iowa Wesleyan	1	6	93	240	3	8	197	330
Trinity Int'l (Ill.)	0	7	67	212	1	10	92	376
INDEPENDENTS								
Peru St. (Neb.)					4	6	245	298
Southern Oregon					3	7	159	253
Southern Virginia					3	7	250	370
Edward Waters					3	8	256	332
Webber International (Fla.)					3	8	133	296
Azusa Pacific (Calif.)					2	8	160	301
Grand View (Iowa)					2	8	256	332
Haskell Indian Nations (Kan.)					2	9	195	472
Kentucky Christian					1	9	123	343
Waldorf (Iowa)					1	10	82	419

FBS COACHING CHANGES FOR 2009

SCHOOL	FORMER COACH	NEW COACH
AUBURN	Tommy Tuberville	Gene Chizik
ARMY	Stan Brock	Rich Ellerson
BALL STATE	Brady Hoke	Stan Parrish
BOSTON COLLEGE	Jeff Jagodzinski	Frank Spaziani
BOWLING GREEN	Gregg Brandon	Dave Clawson
CLEMSON	Tommy Bowden	Dabo Swinney
EASTERN MICHIGAN	Jeff Genyk	Ron English
IOWA STATE	Gene Chizik	Paul Rhodes
KANSAS STATE	Ron Prince	Bill Snyder
MIAMI (OHIO)	Shane Montgomery	Mike Haywood
MISSISSIPPI STATE	Sylvester Croom	Dan Mullen
NEW MEXICO	Rocky Long	Mike Locksley
NEW MEXICO STATE	Hal Mumme	DeWayne Walker
OREGON	Mike Ballotti	Chip Kelly
PURDUE	Joe Tiller	Danny Hope
SAN DIEGO STATE	Chuck Long	Brady Hoke
SYRACUSE	Greg Robinson	Doug Marrone
TENNESSEE	Phil Fulmer	Lane Kiffin
TOLEDO	Tom Amstutz	Tim Beckman
UTAH STATE	Brent Guy	Gary Andersen
WASHINGTON	Tyrone Willingham	Steve Sarkisian
WYOMING	Joe Glenn	Dave Christensen

FCS PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

James Madison 38	Wofford 35
Villanova 55	Colgate 28
Montana 31	Texas State 13
Weber State 49	Cal Poly 35
Appalachian State 37	South Carolina State 21
Richmond 38	Eastern Kentucky 10
Northern Iowa 40	Maine 15
New Hampshire 29	Southern Illinois 20

QUARTERFINALS

James Madison 31	Villanova 27
Montana 24	Weber State 13
Richmond 33	Appalachian State 13
Northern Iowa 36	New Hampshire 34

SEMIFINALS

Montana 35	James Madison 27
Richmond 21	Northern Iowa 20

CHAMPIONSHIP

Richmond 24	Montana 7

NAIA PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Carroll (Mont.) 35	Dickinson State (N.D.) 18
Sioux Falls (S.D.) 28	St. Ambrose (Iowa) 0
Saint Francis (Ind.) 58	Union (KY.) 3
Langston (Okla.) 20	MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.) 14
*Northwestern Oklahoma St. 42	Friends (Kan.) 7
Morningside (Iowa) 65	Baker (Kan.) 27
Lindenwood (Mo.) 65	Lambuth (Tenn.) 48
Cumberlands (Ky.) 31	Shorter (Ga.) 7

QUARTERFINALS

Carroll advances to semifinals

Sioux Falls 50	Langston 13
Saint Francis 31	Cumberlands 20
Lindenwood 34	Morningside 31

SEMIFINALS

Carroll 38	Lindenwood 37
Sioux Falls 24	St. Francis 6

CHAMPIONSHIP

Sioux Falls 23	Carroll 7

Northwestern Oklahoma State vacated position due to use of ineligible players.

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DIVISION II PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Tusculum 34	Albany State 22
Valdosta State 24	Carson-Newman 20
West Texas A&M 49	Central Washington 42
Pittsburg State 33	Nebraska-Omaha 21
West Chester 52	Southern Connecticut 32
Seton Hall 14	American International 7
Ashland 27	Minnesota-St. Makato 16
Chadron State 23	Wayne State (Neb.) 17

SECOND ROUND

Delta State 27	Tusculum 19
North Alabama 37	Valdosta State 10
Abilene Christian 93	West Texas A&M 68
Northwest Missouri State 38	Pittsburgh State 35
Bloomsburg 28	West Chester 21
California (Pa.) 48	Seton Hall 7

SECOND ROUND

Grand Valley State 40	Ashland 7
Minnesota-Duluth 20	Chadron State 20

QUARTERFINALS

North Alabama 55	Delta State 34
Northwest Missouri State 45	Abilene Christian 36
California (Pa.) 28	Bloomsburg 24
Minnesota-Duluth 19	Grand Valley State 13

SEMIFINALS

Northwest Missouri State 41	North Alabama 7
Minnesota-Duluth 45	California (Pa.) 7

CHAMPIONSHIP

Minnesota-Duluth 21	Northwest Missouri St. 14

DIVISION III PLAYOFFS

FIRST ROUND

Mount Union 56	Randolph-Macon 0
Hobart 33	Lycoming 15
Courtland State 31	Plymouth State 14
Curry 26	Ithaca 21
North Central (Ill.) 44	Thomas More 23
Franklin 62	Otterbein 45
Wabash 20	Case Reserve 17
Wheaton (Ill.) 14	Trine 0
Williamette 48	Occidental 33
Wis.-Whitewater 37	St. John's (Minn.) 7
Wartburg 26	Wis.-Stevens Point 21
Monmouth (Ill.) 42	Aurora 13
Millsaps 51	LaGrange 26
Washington & Jefferson 35	Christopher Newport 29
Wesley 20	Muhlenberg 0
Mary Hardin-Baylor 38	Hardin-Simmons 35

SECOND ROUND

Mount Union 42	Hobart 7
Cortland State 42	Curry 0
Franklin 38	North Central (Ill.) 28
Wheaton (Ill.) 59	Wabash 28
Wis.-Whitewater 30	Williamette 27
Wartburg 30	Monmouth (Ill.) 28
Washington & Jefferson 35	Millsaps 20
Mary Hardin-Baylor 46	Wesley 14

QUARTERFINALS

Mount Union 41	Corland State 14
Wheaton (Ill.) 48	Franklin 28
Wis.-Whitewater 34	Wartburg 17
Mary Hardin-Baylor 63	Washington & Jefferson 7

SEMIFINALS

Mount Union 45	Wheaton (Ill.) 24
Wis.-Whitewater 39	Mary Hardin-Baylor 13

CHAMPIONSHIP

Mount Union 31	Wis.-Whitewater 26

—compiled by STATS INC. STATS *bowl games not included in 2008 records

AIR FORCE
Air Force Academy, CO

S.5	Nicholls State	
S.12	@MINNESOTA	
S.19	@NEW MEXICO	23-10
S.26	San Diego State	35-10
O.3	@NAVY	27-33
O.10	TCU	10-44
O.17	Wyoming	23-3
O.24	@UTAH	23-30
O.31	@COLORADO STATE	38-17
N.7	Army	16-7
N.14	UNLV	29-28
N.21	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	24-38

Coach: *Troy Calhoun* **Colors:** *Silver & Blue*
Nickname: *Falcons* **2008 Record:** *9-3*

AKRON
Akron, OH

S.5	@PENN STATE	
S.12	Morgan State	
S.19	Indiana	
S.26	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
O.10	Ohio	42-49
O.17	@BUFFALO	40-43 (OT)
O.24	@SYRACUSE	42-28
O.31	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
N.7	Kent State	30-27 (OT)
N.13	Temple	6-27
N.20	@BOWLING GREEN	33-37
N.27	Eastern Michigan	42-35

Coach: *J.D. Brookhart* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Zips* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

ALABAMA
Tuscaloosa, AL

S.5	@VIRGINIA TECH*	
S.12	Florida International	
S.19	North Texas	
S.26	Arkansas	49-14
O.3	@KENTUCKY	17-14
O.10	@OLE MISS	24-20
O.17	South Carolina	
O.24	Tennessee	29-9
N.7	LSU	27-21 (OT)
N.14	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	32-7
N.21	Chattanooga	
N.27	@AUBURN	36-0

** At Atlanta, GA*
Coach: *Nick Saban* **Colors:** *Crimson & White*
Nickname: *Crimson Tide* **2008 Record:** *12-1*

ALABAMA A&M
Normal, AL

S.5	@TENNESSEE STATE	13-34
S.12	Hampton	
S.19	Jacksonville State	18-45
S.26	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	23-17
O.3	@TUSKEGEE*	24-34
O.10	@GRAMBLING STATE	9-27
O.17	@ALCORN STATE	20-13
O.31	Alabama State#	17-16
N.7	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	10-24
N.14	Jackson State	21-37
N.21	Mississippi Valley State	58-23

** At Indianapolis, IN*
 # At Birmingham, AL
Coach: *Anthony Jones* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

ALABAMA STATE
Montgomery, AL

S.5	Concordia College	
S.12	@SAVANNAH STATE	
S.19	Edward Waters	
S.26	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	47-7
O.10	Prairie View A&M	6-27
O.17	Grambling State	7-27
O.24	Alcorn State	24-17
O.31	@ALABAMA A&M*	16-17
N.7	@JACKSON STATE	0-20
N.14	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY#	0-15
N.26	Tuskegee	17-13

** At Birmingham, AL*
 # At Mobile, AL
Coach: *Reggie Barlow* **Colors:** *Black & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Hornets* **2008 Record:** *3-8*

ALBANY
Albany, NY

S.5	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	
S.12	@MASSACHUSETTS	16-28
S.19	Maine	
S.26	Sacred Heart	26-21
O.3	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	27-3
O.10	Duquesne	33-23
O.17	Bryant	
O.24	@MONMOUTH	35-17
O.31	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	24-22
N.7	Robert Morris	41-7
N.21	@WAGNER	30-11

Coach: *Bob Ford* **Colors:** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Great Danes* **2008 Record:** *9-3*

ALCORN STATE
Alcorn State, MS

S.5	@SOUTHERN MISS	
S.19	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	
S.26	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	12-15
O.3	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	13-3
O.10	Mississippi Valley State	35-21
O.17	Alabama A&M	13-20
O.24	@ALABAMA STATE	17-24
O.31	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	29-30
N.14	Prairie View A&M	3-37
N.21	@JACKSON STATE	21-26

Coach: *Earnest Collins*
Colors: *Alcorn Purple & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Braves* **2008 Record:** *2-10*

APPALACHIAN STATE
Boone, NC

S.5	@EAST CAROLINA	
S.12	McNeese State	
S.26	Samford	35-24
O.3	@CITADEL	47-21
O.10	North Carolina Central	
O.17	@WOFFORD	70-24
O.24	Georgia Southern	37-36
O.31	@FURMAN	26-14
N.7	Chattanooga	49-7
N.14	@ELON	24-16
N.21	Western Carolina	35-10

Coach: *Jerry Moore* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Mountaineers* **2008 Record:** *11-3*

ARIZONA
Tucson, AZ

S.5	Central Michigan	
S.12	Northern Arizona	
S.19	@IOWA	
S.26	@OREGON STATE	17-19
O.10	@WASHINGTON	48-14
O.17	Stanford	23-24
O.24	UCLA	31-10
N.7	Washington State	59-28
N.14	@CALIFORNIA	42-27
N.21	Oregon	45-55
N.28	@ARIZONA STATE	31-10
D.5	@USC	10-17

Coach: *Mike Stoops* **Colors:** *Cardinal & Navy*
Nickname: *Wildcats* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

ARIZONA STATE
Tempe, AZ

S.5	Idaho State	
S.19	Louisiana-Monroe	
S.26	@GEORGIA	10-27
O.3	Oregon State	25-27
O.10	@WASHINGTON STATE	31-0
O.17	Washington	39-19
O.24	@STANFORD	41-17
O.31	California	14-24
N.7	USC	0-28
N.14	@OREGON	20-54
N.21	@UCLA	34-9
N.28	Arizona	10-31

Coach: *Dennis Erickson* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Sun Devils* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

ARKANSAS
Fayetteville, AR

S.5	Missouri State*	
S.19	Georgia	
S.26	@ALABAMA	14-49
O.3	@TEXAS A&M#	
O.10	Auburn	25-22
O.17	@FLORIDA	7-38
O.24	@OLE MISS	21-23
O.31	Eastern Michigan	
N.7	South Carolina	21-34
N.14	Troy	
N.21	Mississippi State*	28-31
N.28	@LSU	31-30

** At Little Rock, AR*
 # At Arlington, TX
Coach: *Bobby Petrino* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
Nickname: *Razorbacks* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

ARKANSAS STATE
State University, AR

S.5	Mississippi Valley State	
S.12	@NEBRASKA	
S.26	Troy	9-35
O.3	@IOWA	
O.13	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	37-29
O.24	Florida International	21-22
O.31	@LOUISVILLE	
N.7	Louisiana-Lafayette	23-28
N.14	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	28-14
N.21	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	31-14
N.28	North Texas	33-28
D.3	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	

Coach: *Steve Roberts* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Black*
Nickname: *Red Wolves* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
Pine Bluff, AR

S.5	Arkansas-Monticello	7-21
S.12	Langston	
S.19	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE*	34-0
S.26	@ALABAMA A&M	17-23
O.3	Alcorn State	3-13
O.10	@JACKSON STATE	10-21
O.24	Edward Waters	
O.31	Southern University	24-31 (OT)
N.7	Grambling State#	7-28
N.21	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	0-15
N.28	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	28-7

** At Chicago, IL*
 # At Little Rock, AR
Coach: *Monte Coleman* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Lions* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

ARMY
West Point, NY

S.5	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	17-13
S.12	Duke	
S.19	Ball State	
S.26	@IOWA STATE	
O.3	Tulane	44-13
O.10	Vanderbilt	
O.17	@TEMPLE	7-35
O.23	Rutgers	3-30
N.7	@AIR FORCE	7-16
N.14	Virginia Military	
N.21	@NORTH TEXAS	
D.12	@NAVY*	0-34

** At Philadelphia, PA*
Coach: *Rich Ellerson* **Colors:** *Black, Gold & Gray*
Nickname: *Black Knights* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

AUBURN
Auburn, AL

S.5	Louisiana Tech	
S.12	Mississippi State	3-2
S.19	West Virginia	17-34
S.26	Ball State	
O.3	@TENNESSEE	14-12
O.10	@ARKANSAS	22-25
O.17	Kentucky	
O.24	@LSU	21-26
O.31	Ole Miss	7-17
N.7	Furman	
N.14	@GEORGIA	13-17
N.27	Alabama	0-36

Coach: *Gene Chizik* **Colors:** Burnt *Orange & Navy Blue* **Nickname:** *Tigers* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

AUSTIN PEAY
Clarksville, TN

S.12	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	
S.19	@ILLINOIS STATE	
S.26	Eastern Illinois	15-13
O.3	@TENNESSEE TECH	31-28
O.10	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	30-33
O.24	Eastern Kentucky	10-13 (OT)
O.31	Jacksonville State	22-35
N.7	@MURRAY STATE	12-32
N.14	Tennessee State	34-37
N.21	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	17-31

Coach: *Rick Christophel* **Colors:** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Governors* **2008 Record:** *2-9*

BALL STATE
Muncie, IN

S.3	North Texas	
S.12	New Hampshire	
S.19	@ARMY	
S.26	@AUBURN	
O.3	Toledo	31-0
O.10	@TEMPLE	
O.17	Bowling Green	
O.24	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	38-16
O.31	Ohio	
N.12	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	45-14
N.18	Central Michigan	31-24
N.24	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	45-22

Coach: *Stan Parrish* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
Nickname: *Cardinals* **2008 Record:** *12-1*

BAYLOR
Waco, TX

S.5	@WAKE FOREST	13-41
S.19	Connecticut	28-31
S.26	Northwestern State	51-6
O.3	Kent State	
O.10	@OKLAHOMA	17-49
O.17	@IOWA STATE	38-10
O.24	Oklahoma State	6-34
O.31	Nebraska	20-32
N.7	@MISSOURI	28-31
N.14	Texas	21-45
N.21	@TEXAS A&M	41-21
N.28	Texas Tech*	28-35

** At Arlington, TX*
Coach: *Art Briles* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Bears* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

BETHUNE-COOKMAN
Daytona Beach, FL

S.5	Shaw	
S.12	South Carolina State	19-28
S.26	@NORFOLK STATE	33-17
O.3	Morgan State	31-27
O.10	@DELAWARE STATE	20-26
O.17	@SAVANNAH STATE	34-9
O.24	Winston-Salem State	27-6
O.31	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	24-14
N.7	Hampton	17-6
N.14	@HOWARD	14-12
N.21	@FLORIDA A&M*	35-58

** At Orlando, FL*
Coach: *Alvin Wyatt* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Wildcats* **2008 Record:** *8-3*

BOISE STATE
Boise, ID

S.3	Oregon	37-32
S.12	Miami (OH)	
S.18	@FRESNO STATE	61-10
S.26	@BOWLING GREEN	20-7
O.3	UC-Davis	
O.14	@TULSA	
O.24	@HAWAII	27-7
O.31	San Jose State	33-16
N.6	@LOUISIANA TECH	38-3
N.14	Idaho	45-10
N.20	@UTAH STATE	49-14
N.27	Nevada	41-34
D.5	New Mexico State	49-0

Coach: *Chris Petersen* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Broncos* **2008 Record:** *12-0*

BOSTON COLLEGE
Chestnut Hill, MA

S.5	Northeastern	
S.12	Kent State	21-0
S.19	@CLEMSON	21-27
S.26	Wake Forest	24-21
O.3	Florida State	27-17
O.10	@VIRGINIA TECH	12-30
O.17	North Carolina State	38-31
O.24	@NOTRE DAME	17-0
O.31	Central Michigan	
N.14	@VIRGINIA	
N.21	North Carolina	24-45
N.28	@MARYLAND	28-21

Coach: *Frank Spaziani* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Eagles* **2008 Record:** *9-4*

BOWLING GREEN
Bowling Green, OH

S.3	Troy	
S.12	@MISSOURI	
S.19	@MARSHALL	
S.26	Boise State	7-20
O.3	Ohio	28-3
O.10	@KENT STATE	45-30
O.17	@BALL STATE	
O.24	Central Michigan	
N.3	@BUFFALO	34-40 (OT)
N.12	@MIAMI (OH)	20-27
N.20	Akron	37-33
N.27	Toledo	38-10

Coach: *Dave Clawson* **Colors:** *Brown & Orange*
Nickname: *Falcons* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

BRIGHAM YOUNG
Provo, UT

S.5	@OKLAHOMA*	
S.12	@TULANE	
S.19	Florida State	
S.26	Colorado State	45-42
O.2	Utah State	34-14
O.10	@UNLV	42-35
O.17	@SAN DIEGO STATE	41-12
O.24	TCU	7-32
N.7	@WYOMING	44-0
N.14	@NEW MEXICO	21-3
N.21	Air Force	38-24
N.28	Utah	24-48

** At Arlington, TX*
Coach: *Bronco Mendenhall* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Cougars* **2008 Record:** *10-2*

BROWN
Providence, RI

S.19	@STONY BROOK	17-7
S.26	@HARVARD	24-22
O.3	Rhode Island	13-37
O.10	Holy Cross	34-41
O.17	Princeton	31-10
O.24	@CORNELL	27-7
O.31	Pennsylvania	34-27
N.7	@YALE	3-13
N.14	Dartmouth	45-16
N.21	@COLUMBIA	41-10

Coach: *Phil Estes* **Colors:** *Seal Brown, Red & White*
Nickname: *Bears* **2008 Record:** *7-3*

BRYANT COLLEGE
Smithfield, RI

S.5	Southern Connecticut State	39-36
S.12	Hofstra	
S.26	@ROBERT MORRIS	20-7
O.3	Wagner	24-14
O.10	@FORDHAM	
O.17	@ALBANY	
O.24	Central Connecticut State	35-42
O.31	@MONMOUTH	17-30
N.7	@SACRED HEART	
N.14	St. Francis (PA)	23-0
N.21	@DUQUESNE	24-10

Coach: *Marty Fine* **Colors:** *Gold & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2008 Record:** *7-4*

BUCKNELL
Lewisburg, PA

S.5	@DUQUESNE	48-42
S.12	Robert Morris	17-14
S.19	@CORNELL	20-21
S.26	Marist	21-17
O.3	Georgetown	27-24
O.10	@PENNSYLVANIA	
O.24	Lehigh	15-31
O.31	@LAFAYETTE	21-38
N.7	@FORDHAM	24-21 (OT)
N.14	@COLGATE	28-52
N.21	Holy Cross	17-34

Coach: *Tim Landis* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Bison* **2008 Record:** *5-6*

BUFFALO
Buffalo, NY

S.5	@UTEP	42-17
S.12	Pittsburgh	16-27
S.19	@UCF	
S.26	@TEMPLE	30-28
O.3	Central Michigan	25-27
O.10	Gardner-Webb	
O.17	Akron	43-40 (OT)
O.24	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	28-34 (OT)
N.3	Bowling Green	40-34 (OT)
N.10	Ohio	32-19
N.18	@MIAMI (OH)	37-17
N.27	@KENT STATE	21-24

Coach: *Turner Gill* **Colors:** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulls* **2008 Record:** *8-5*

BUTLER
Indianapolis, IN

S.5	Albion	20-6
S.12	@FRANKLIN	28-31
S.19	Hanover	
S.26	@MOREHEAD STATE	31-21
O.3	San Diego	17-34
O.17	Valparaiso	48-21
O.24	@CAMPBELL	56-7
O.31	Davidson	34-46
N.7	@DAYTON	21-28 (OT)
N.14	@JACKSONVILLE	9-45
N.21	Drake	21-15

Coach: *Jeff Voris* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* **2008 Record:** *6-5*

CAL POLY
San Luis Obispo, CA

S.12	Sacramento State	
S.19	@OHIO	
S.26	@SAN JOSE STATE	
O.3	South Dakota State	42-28
O.10	@MONTANA	28-30
O.17	Southern Utah	69-41
O.31	@NORTH DAKOTA	
N.7	@UC-DAVIS	51-28
N.14	South Dakota	49-22
N.21	@WEBER STATE	35-49

Coach: *Tim Walsh* **Colors:** *Forest Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Mustangs* **2008 Record:** *8-3*

CALIFORNIA
Berkeley, CA

S.5	Maryland	27-35
S.12	Eastern Washington	
S.19	@MINNESOTA	
S.26	@OREGON	26-16
O.3	USC	3-17
O.17	@UCLA	41-20
O.24	Washington State	66-3
O.31	@ARIZONA STATE	24-14
N.7	Oregon State	21-34
N.14	Arizona	27-42
N.21	@STANFORD	37-16
D.5	@WASHINGTON	48-7

Coach: *Jeff Tedford* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Bears* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

UC-DAVIS
Davis, CA

S.5	@FRESNO STATE	
S.12	Montana	24-29

S.26 Western Oregon
0.3 @BOISE STATE
0.10 @SOUTH DAKOTA
0.17 Winston-Salem State
0.24 @PORTLAND STATE 38-24
0.31 @SOUTHERN UTAH 49-26
N.7 Cal Poly 28-51
N.14 North Dakota 34-21
N.21 @SACRAMENTO STATE 19-29
Coach: *Bob Biggs* ***Colors:*** *Yale Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Aggies* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

CAMPBELL
Buies Creek, NC
S.5 Methodist 21-32
S.12 @BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN 6-12
S.19 @DAVIDSON 0-49
0.3 @MARIST
0.10 Dayton 0-42
0.17 @OLD DOMINION
0.24 Butler 7-56
0.31 Morehead State 7-42
N.7 @DRAKE 0-45
N.14 @VALPARAISO 14-47
N.21 Jacksonville 0-52
Coach: *Dale Steele* ***Colors:*** *Black & Orange*
Nickname: *Fighting Camels* ***2008 Record:*** *1-10*

CENTRAL ARKANSAS
Conway, AR
S.4 @HAWAII
S.19 @WESTERN KENTUCKY
S.26 Glenville State
0.3 Missouri-Rolla
0.10 @NORTHWESTERN STATE 42-6
0.17 Stephen F. Austin 49-41
0.24 Nicholls State 17-20
0.31 @SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA 28-21
N.7 Texas State 31-24
N.14 @SAM HOUSTON STATE 48-46
N.21 @McNEESE STATE 47-30
N.28 North Dakota
Coach: *Clint Conque* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gray*
Nickname: *Bears* ***2008 Record:*** *10-2*

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE
New Britain, CT
S.5 @LEHIGH
S.12 @WILLIAM & MARY
S.26 @COLUMBIA
0.3 Sacred Heart 49-14
0.10 Robert Morris 14-27
0.17 @DUQUESNE 35-23
0.24 @BRYANT 42-35
0.31 Albany 22-24
N.7 @WAGNER 35-10
N.14 Monmouth 20-30
N.21 @ST. FRANCIS (PA) 36-0
Coach: *Jeff McInerney* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Blue Devils* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

CENTRAL MICHIGAN
Mount Pleasant, MI
S.5 @ARIZONA
S.12 @MICHIGAN STATE
S.19 Alcorn State
S.26 Akron
0.3 @BUFFALO 27-25
0.10 Eastern Michigan 52-56
0.17 @WESTERN MICHIGAN 38-28
0.24 @BOWLING GREEN
0.31 @BOSTON COLLEGE
N.11 Toledo 24-23
N.18 @BALL STATE 24-31
N.27 Northern Illinois 33-30 (OT)
Coach: *Butch Jones* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Chippewas* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Charleston, SC
S.5 @FLORIDA
S.12 @WOFFORD 23-41
S.19 @SOUTH FLORIDA
S.26 North Greenville 27-0
0.3 Savannah State 29-20
0.17 @GARDNER-WEBB 13-10
0.24 Liberty 0-42
0.31 @VIRGINIA MILITARY 31-21
N.7 @PRESBYTERIAN 29-18
N.14 Stony Brook 19-20
N.21 Coastal Carolina 24-0
Coach: *Jay Mills* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Buccaneers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

CHATTANOOGA
Chattanooga, TN
S.3 Glenville State
S.12 Furman 10-35
S.19 @PRESBYTERIAN
S.26 Wofford 7-56
0.10 @SAMFORD 7-30
0.17 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN 28-52
0.24 @ELON 7-42
0.31 Western Carolina 7-27
N.7 @APPALACHIAN STATE 7-49
N.14 Citadel 21-24
N.21 @ALABAMA
Coach: *Russ Huesman* ***Colors:*** *Navy & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Mocs* ***2008 Record:*** *1-11*

CINCINNATI
Cincinnati, OH
S.7 @RUTGERS 13-10
S.12 Southeast Missouri State
S.19 @OREGON STATE
S.26 Fresno State
0.3 @MIAMI (OH) 45-20
0.15 @SOUTH FLORIDA 24-10
0.24 Louisville 28-20
0.31 @SYRACUSE 30-10
N.7 Connecticut 16-40
N.13 West Virginia 26-23 (OT)
N.27 Illinois
D.5 @PITTSBURGH 28-21
Coach: *Brian Kelly* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black*
Nickname: *Bearcats* ***2008 Record:*** *11-2*

CITADEL
Charleston, SC
S.5 @NORTH CAROLINA
S.19 @PRINCETON 37-24
S.26 Presbyterian
0.3 Appalachian State 21-47
0.10 @ELON 23-27
0.17 @WESTERN CAROLINA 34-14
0.24 Furman 20-34
0.31 Samford 10-28
N.7 Wofford 28-33
N.14 @CHATTANOOGA 24-21
N.21 @GEORGIA SOUTHERN 41-44 (OT)
Coach: *Kevin Higgins* ***Colors:*** *Citadel Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

CLEMSON
Clemson, SC
S.5 Middle Tennessee State
S.10 @GEORGIA TECH 17-21
S.19 Boston College 27-21
S.26 TCU
0.3 @MARYLAND 17-20
0.17 Wake Forest 7-12
0.24 @MIAMI (FL)
0.31 Coastal Carolina
N.7 Florida State 27-41
N.14 @NORTH CAROLINA STATE 27-9
N.21 Virginia 13-3
N.28 @SOUTH CAROLINA 31-14
Coach: *Dabo Swinney*
Colors: *Orange, Purple & White*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

COASTAL CAROLINA
Conway, SC
S.3 @KENT STATE
S.12 Monmouth 26-7
S.19 @TOWSON 31-3
S.26 North Carolina A&T 20-7
0.10 Virginia Military 20-47
0.17 @LIBERTY 38-43
0.24 @STONY BROOK 24-28
0.31 @CLEMSON
N.7 Gardner-Webb 23-18
N.14 Presbyterian 21-13
N.21 @CHARLESTON SOUTHERN 0-24
Coach: *David Bennett* ***Colors:*** *Coastal Teal & Bronze*
Nickname: *Chanticleers* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

COLGATE
Hamilton, NY
S.5 Monmouth
S.12 Stony Brook 26-42
S.19 @DARTMOUTH 34-20
S.26 Fordham 31-24
0.3 Cornell 38-22
0.8 @PRINCETON 27-24
0.17 @GEORGETOWN
0.24 @HOLY CROSS 28-27
0.31 Lehigh 34-33
N.7 @LAFAYETTE 21-13
N.14 Bucknell 52-28
Coach: *Dick Biddle* ***Colors:*** *Maroon, White & Gray* ***Nickname:*** *Raiders* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

COLORADO
Boulder, CO
S.5 Colorado State 38-17
S.11 @TOLEDO
S.19 Wyoming
0.1 @WEST VIRGINIA 17-14 (OT)
0.10 @TEXAS 14-38
0.17 Kansas 14-30
0.24 @KANSAS STATE 14-13
0.31 Missouri 0-58
N.7 Texas A&M 17-24
N.14 @IOWA STATE 28-24
N.19 @OKLAHOMA STATE 17-30
N.27 Nebraska 31-40
Coach: *Dan Hawkins* ***Colors:*** *Silver, Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Buffaloes* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

COLORADO STATE
Fort Collins, CO
S.5 @COLORADO 17-38
S.12 Weber State
S.19 Nevada
S.26 @BRIGHAM YOUNG 42-45
0.3 @IDAHO
0.10 Utah 16-49
0.17 @TCU 7-13
0.24 San Diego State 38-34
0.31 Air Force 17-38
N.7 @UNLV 41-28
N.21 @NEW MEXICO 20-6
N.27 Wyoming 31-20
Coach: *Steve Fairchild* ***Colors:*** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Rams* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

COLUMBIA
New York, NY
S.19 @FORDHAM 22-29
S.26 Central Connecticut State
0.3 @PRINCETON 24-27
0.10 @LAFAYETTE 3-13
0.17 Pennsylvania 10-15
0.24 @DARTMOUTH 21-13
0.31 Yale 12-27
N.7 Harvard 28-42
N.14 @CORNELL 17-7
N.21 Brown 10-41
Coach: *Norries Wilson* ***Colors:*** *Columbia Blue & White* ***Nickname:*** *Lions* ***2008 Record:*** *2-8*

CONNECTICUT
Storrs, CT
S.5 @OHIO
S.12 North Carolina 12-38
S.19 @BAYLOR 31-28
S.26 Rhode Island
0.10 @PITTSBURGH 10-34
0.17 Louisville 26-21
0.24 @WEST VIRGINIA 13-35
0.31 Rutgers 10-12
N.7 @CINCINNATI 40-16
N.21 @NOTRE DAME
N.28 Syracuse 39-14
D.5 South Florida 13-17
Coach: *Randy Edsall* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Huskies 2008 Record: 7-5*

CORNELL
Ithaca, NY
S.19 Bucknell 21-20
S.26 @YALE 17-14
0.3 @COLGATE 22-38
0.10 Harvard 17-38
0.17 Fordham
0.24 Brown 7-27
0.31 @PRINCETON 26-31
N.7 @DARTMOUTH 37-14
N.14 Columbia 7-17
N.21 @PENNSYLVANIA 6-23
Coach: *Jim Knowles* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Big Red* ***2008 Record:*** *4-6*

DARTMOUTH
Hanover, NH
S.19 Colgate 20-34
S.26 @NEW HAMPSHIRE 6-42
0.3 Pennsylvania 10-23
0.10 @YALE 7-34
0.17 @HOLY CROSS 26-44
0.24 Columbia 13-21
0.31 @HARVARD 7-35
N.7 Cornell 14-37
N.14 @BROWN 16-45
N.21 Princeton 10-28
Coach: *Buddy Teevens* ***Colors:*** *Dartmouth Green & White* ***Nickname:*** *Big Green* ***2008 Record:*** *0-10*

DAVIDSON
Davidson, NC
S.5 @ELON
S.12 Lenoir-Rhyne 20-16
S.19 Campbell 49-0
0.3 @JACKSONVILLE 38-35
0.10 Morehead State 13-26
0.17 @DAYTON 22-41
0.24 Drake 17-20
0.31 @BUTLER 46-34
N.7 @SAN DIEGO 24-28
N.14 Marist 19-24
Coach: *Tripp Merritt* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black*
Nickname: *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *4-7*

DAYTON
Dayton, OH
S.19 @ROBERT MORRIS 31-14
S.26 Duquesne 16-24
0.3 @MOREHEAD STATE 13-14
0.10 @CAMPBELL 42-0
0.17 Davidson 41-22
0.24 @VALPARAISO 43-7
0.31 San Diego 30-22
N.7 Butler 28-21 (OT)
N.14 @DRAKE 27-9
N.21 Marist
Coach: *Rick Chamberlin Colors: Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Flyers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

DELAWARE
Newark, DE
S.4 West Chester 48-20
S.12 Richmond 14-31
S.19 Delaware State
S.26 @WILLIAM & MARY 3-27
0.3 @MAINE 10-27
0.10 Massachusetts 7-17
0.17 @TOWSON 31-21
0.31 James Madison 7-41
N.7 Hofstra 17-0
N.14 @NAVY
N.21 @VILLANOVA 7-21
Coach: *K.C. Keeler* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Blue Hens* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

DELAWARE STATE
Dover, DE
S.5 @FLORIDA A&M 35-28 (OT)
S.19 @DELAWARE
S.26 @HAMPTON 14-17
0.10 Bethune-Cookman 26-20
0.17 @MICHIGAN
0.24 Morgan State 3-20
0.31 @SOUTH CAROLINA STATE 17-23
N.7 @WINSTON-SALEM STATE 26-27
N.14 Norfolk State 34-28
N.21 Howard 10-6
Coach: *Al Lavan* ***Colors:*** *Columbia Blue & Red*
Nickname: *Hornets* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

DRAKE
Des Moines, IA
S.5 Grand View
S.12 @MARIST
S.19 @SOUTH DAKOTA
0.3 Valparaiso 32-0
0.10 Missouri-Rolla
0.17 @SAN DIEGO 17-43
0.24 @DAVIDSON 20-17
0.31 Jacksonville 9-41
N.7 Campbell 45-0
N.14 Dayton 9-27
N.21 @BUTLER 15-21
Coach: *Chris Creighton* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

DUKE
Durham, NC
S.5 Richmond
S.12 @ARMY
S.19 @KANSAS
S.26 North Carolina Central
0.3 Virginia Tech 3-14
0.10 @NORTH CAROLINA STATE 17-27
0.24 Maryland
0.31 @VIRGINIA 31-3
N.7 @NORTH CAROLINA 20-28
N.14 Georgia Tech 0-27
N.21 @MIAMI (FL) 31-49
N.28 Wake Forest 30-33 (OT)
Coach: *David Cutcliffe* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Blue Devils* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

DUQUESNE
Pittsburgh, PA
S.5 Bucknell 42-48
S.12 @NICHOLLS STATE
S.19 @MONMOUTH 14-37
S.26 @DAYTON 24-16
0.3 Robert Morris 27-34
0.10 @ALBANY 23-33
0.17 Central Connecticut State 23-35
0.24 @ST. FRANCIS (PA) 21-7
0.31 Wagner 14-0
N.14 @SACRED HEART 17-29
N.21 Bryant 10-24
Coach: *Jerry Schmitt* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Dukes* ***2008 Record:*** *3-7*

EAST CAROLINA
Greenville, NC
S.5 Appalachian State
S.12 @WEST VIRGINIA 24-3
S.19 @NORTH CAROLINA
S.26 UCF 13-10 (OT)
0.3 @MARSHALL 19-16 (OT)
0.10 @SOUTHERN METHODIST
0.17 Rice
0.27 @MEMPHIS 30-10
N.5 Virginia Tech 27-22
N.15 @TULSA 27-24
N.21 UAB 17-13
N.28 Southern Miss 3-21
Coach: *Skip Holtz* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Pirates* ***2008 Record:*** *9-4*

EASTERN ILLINOIS
Charleston, IL
S.3 Illinois State 25-21
S.12 @INDIANA STATE 38-3
S.19 @SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE 24-21
S.26 @AUSTIN PEAY 13-15
0.3 Eastern Kentucky 7-20
0.10 @PENN STATE
0.17 Tennessee Tech 38-20
0.24 @JACKSONVILLE STATE 10-23
0.31 @MURRAY STATE 34-6
N.14 Tennessee-Martin 26-29
N.21 Tennessee State 24-45
Coach: *Bob Spoo* ***Colors:*** *Blue, Gray & White*
Nickname: *Panthers* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

EASTERN KENTUCKY
Richmond, KY
S.3 @INDIANA*
S.19 Tennessee Tech 33-12
S.26 @MURRAY STATE 34-7
0.3 @EASTERN ILLINOIS 20-7
0.10 Tennessee State 20-34
0.17 Tennessee-Martin 33-31
0.24 @AUSTIN PEAY 13-10 (OT)
0.31 Southeast Missouri State 29-16
N.7 @KENTUCKY
N.14 Western Carolina
N.21 @JACKSONVILLE STATE 38-35
** At Commerce, TX*
Coach: *Dean Hood* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Colonels* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

EASTERN MICHIGAN
Ypsilanti, MI
S.5 Army 13-17
S.12 @NORTHWESTERN
S.19 @MICHIGAN
0.3 Temple 52-55
0.10 @CENTRAL MICHIGAN 56-52
0.17 Kent State
0.24 Ball State 16-38
0.31 @ARKANSAS
N.5 @NORTHERN ILLINOIS 0-37
N.14 Western Michigan 10-31
N.20 @TOLEDO 17-41
N.27 @AKRON 35-42
Coach: *Ron English* ***Colors:*** *Dark Green & White*
Nickname: *Eagles* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

EASTERN WASHINGTON
Cheney, WA
S.5 Western Oregon
S.12 @CALIFORNIA
S.19 Northern Colorado 31-16
S.26 @SACRAMENTO STATE 13-15
0.3 @IDAHO STATE 45-31
0.10 Weber State 33-26
0.17 @MONTANA 3-19
0.24 Montana State 34-17
0.31 Portland State* 36-47
N.14 @SOUTHERN UTAH
N.21 @NORTHERN ARIZONA 28-13
** At Seattle, WA*
Coach: *Beau Baldwin* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Eagles* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

ELON
Elon College, NC
S.5 Davidson
S.12 @PRESBYTERIAN 66-12
S.19 @WAKE FOREST
S.26 Georgia Southern 22-20
0.3 @FURMAN 31-10
0.10 Citadel 27-23
0.24 Chattanooga 42-7
0.31 @WOFFORD 20-55
N.7 @WESTERN CAROLINA 33-14
N.14 Appalachian State 16-24
N.21 @SAMFORD 23-17
Coach: *Pete Lembo* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Phoenix* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

FLORIDA
Gainesville, FL
S.5 Charleston Southern
S.12 Troy
S.19 Tennessee 30-6
S.26 @KENTUCKY 63-5
0.10 @LSU 51-21
0.17 Arkansas 38-7
0.24 @MISSISSIPPI STATE
0.31 Georgia* 49-10
N.7 Vanderbilt 42-14
N.14 @SOUTH CAROLINA 56-6
N.21 Florida International
N.28 Florida State 45-15
** At Jacksonville, FL*
Coach: *Urban Meyer* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue*
Nickname: *Gators* ***2008 Record:*** *12-1*

FLORIDA A&M
Tallahassee, FL

S.5	Delaware State	28-35 (OT)
S.12	@WINSTON-SALEM STATE	23-0
S.19	Howard	51-24
S.26	@TENNESSEE STATE*	28-21
0.10	@MIAMI (FL)	
0.17	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	21-28
0.24	Norfolk State	31-28
0.31	@MORGAN STATE	10-13
N.7	North Carolina A&T	45-7
N.14	@HAMPTON	45-24
N.21	Bethune-Cookman#	58-35

** At Atlanta, GA*
 # At Orlando, FL
Coach: *Joe Taylor* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Green*
Nickname: *Rattlers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Boca Raton, FL

S.5	@NEBRASKA	
S.19	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
S.26	Louisiana-Monroe	29-28
0.3	Wyoming	
0.17	@NORTH TEXAS	46-13
0.24	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	40-29
0.31	Middle Tennessee	13-14
N.7	@UAB	49-34
N.14	Arkansas State	14-28
N.21	@TROY	17-30
N.28	Western Kentucky	24-20
D.5	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	57-50 (OT)

Coach: *Howard Schnellenberger* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Red* ***Nickname:*** *Owls* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL
Miami, FL

S.12	@ALABAMA	
S.19	@RUTGERS	
S.26	Toledo	35-16
0.3	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	27-31
0.10	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	27-3
0.17	Troy	23-33
0.24	@ARKANSAS STATE	22-21
0.31	Louisiana-Lafayette	20-49
N.7	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	31-21
N.14	North Texas	42-10
N.21	@FLORIDA	
D.5	Florida Atlantic	50-57 (OT)

Coach: *Mario Cristobal* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Panthers* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

FLORIDA STATE
Tallahassee, FL

S.7	Miami (FL)	41-39
S.12	Jacksonville State	
S.19	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	
S.26	South Florida	
0.3	@BOSTON COLLEGE	17-27
0.10	Georgia Tech	28-31
0.22	@NORTH CAROLINA	
0.31	North Carolina State	26-17
N.7	@CLEMSON	41-27
N.14	@WAKE FOREST	3-12
N.21	Maryland	37-3
N.28	@FLORIDA	15-45

Coach: *Bobby Bowden* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Gold*
Nickname: *Seminoles* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

FORDHAM
Bronx, NY

S.5	@RHODE ISLAND	16-0
S.19	Columbia	29-22
S.26	@COLGATE	24-31
0.3	Old Dominion	
0.10	Bryant	
0.17	@CORNELL	
0.24	@LAFAYETTE	13-48
0.31	Holy Cross	17-38
N.7	Bucknell	21-24 (OT)
N.14	Lehigh	24-45
N.21	@GEORGETOWN	17-0

Coach: *Tom Masella* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Rams* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

FRESNO STATE
Fresno, CA

S.5	UC-Davis	
S.12	@WISCONSIN	10-13
S.18	Boise State	10-61
S.26	@CINCINNATI	
0.10	@HAWAII	29-32 (OT)
0.17	San Jose State	24-10
0.24	@NEW MEXICO STATE	24-17
0.31	Utah State	30-28
N.7	@IDAHO	45-32
N.14	@NEVADA	28-41
N.21	Louisiana Tech	35-38
D.5	@ILLINOIS	

Coach: *Pat Hill* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

FURMAN
Greenville, SC

S.5	Presbyterian	
S.12	@CHATTANOOGA	35-10
S.19	@MISSOURI	
S.26	@WESTERN CAROLINA	28-21
0.3	Elon	10-31
0.17	Samford	28-27
0.24	@CITADEL	34-20
0.31	Appalachian State	14-26
N.7	@AUBURN	
N.14	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	10-17
N.21	Wofford	10-35

Coach: *Bobby Lamb* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Paladins* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

GARDNER-WEBB
Boiling Springs, NC

S.5	Mars Hill	
S.12	@WESTERN CAROLINA	
S.19	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
0.3	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	34-27
0.10	@BUFFALO	
0.17	Charleston Southern	10-13
0.24	Southern Virginia	
0.31	Stony Brook	34-33
N.7	@COASTAL CAROLINA	18-23
N.14	Liberty	10-30
N.21	@PRESBYTERIAN	47-21

Coach: *Steve Patton*
Colors: *Scarlet, White & Black*
Nickname: *Runnin' Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

GEORGETOWN
Washington, DC

S.5	@HOLY CROSS	14-38
S.12	Lafayette	6-24
S.19	Yale	7-47
S.26	Howard	12-7
0.3	@BUCKNELL	24-27
0.10	@LEHIGH	13-33
0.17	Colgate	
0.31	@OLD DOMINION	
N.7	@MARIST	13-12
N.14	Richmond	0-48
N.21	Fordham	0-17

Coach: *Kevin Kelly* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Hoyas* ***2008 Record:*** *2-8*

GEORGIA
Athens, GA

S.5	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
S.12	South Carolina	14-7
S.19	@ARKANSAS	
S.26	Arizona State	27-10
0.3	LSU	52-38
0.10	@TENNESSEE	26-14
0.17	@VANDERBILT	24-14
0.31	@FLORIDA*	10-49
N.7	Tennessee Tech	
N.14	Auburn	17-13
N.21	Kentucky	42-38
N.28	@GEORGIA TECH	42-45

** At Jacksonville, FL*
Coach: *Mark Richt* ***Colors:*** *Red & Black*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

GEORGIA SOUTHERN
Statesboro, GA

S.5	Albany	
S.12	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	
S.19	Western Carolina	38-31 (OT)
S.26	@ELON	20-22
0.3	@WOFFORD	37-38 (OT)
0.10	@NORTH CAROLINA	
0.17	Chattanooga	52-28
0.24	@APPALACHIAN STATE	36-37
N.7	@SAMFORD	17-27
N.14	Furman	17-10
N.21	Citadel	44-41 (OT)

Coach: *Chris Hatcher* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Eagles* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

GEORGIA TECH
Atlanta, GA

S.5	Jacksonville State	41-14
S.10	Clemson	21-17
S.17	@MIAMI (FL)	41-23
S.26	North Carolina	7-28
0.3	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	38-7
0.10	@FLORIDA STATE	31-28
0.17	Virginia Tech	17-20
0.24	@VIRGINIA	17-24
0.31	@VANDERBILT	
N.7	Wake Forest	
N.14	@DUKE	27-0
N.28	Georgia	45-42

Coach: *Paul Johnson* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & White*
Nickname: *Yellow Jackets* ***2008 Record:*** *9-5*

GRAMBLING STATE
Grambling, LA

S.6	South Carolina State*	
S.12	Northwestern State	19-31
S.19	@JACKSON STATE	41-9
S.26	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
0.3	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M#	40-16
0.10	Alabama A&M	27-9
0.17	@ALABAMA STATE	27-7
0.31	Mississippi Valley State	35-14
N.7	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF$	28-7
N.12	Texas Southern	33-7
N.28	Southern University%	29-14

** At Orlando, FL*
 # At Dallas, TX
$ At Little Rock, AR
% At New Orleans, LA
Coach: *Rod Broadway* ***Colors:*** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *11-2*

HAMPTON
Hampton, VA

S.5	North Carolina Central	
S.12	@ALABAMA A&M	
S.19	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	44-7
S.26	Delaware State	17-14
0.10	Howard	38-27
0.17	@NORFOLK STATE	35-17
0.24	South Carolina State	13-35
0.31	@WINSTON-SALEM STATE	30-35
N.7	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	6-17
N.14	Florida A&M	24-45
N.21	Morgan State	17-13

Coach: *Donovan Rose* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Pirates* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

HARVARD
Boston, MA

S.19	@HOLY CROSS	25-24
S.26	Brown	22-24
0.3	@LEHIGH	27-24
0.10	@CORNELL	38-17
0.17	Lafayette	27-13
0.24	Princeton	24-20
0.31	Dartmouth	35-7
N.7	@COLUMBIA	42-28
N.14	Pennsylvania	24-21
N.21	@YALE	10-0

Coach: *Tim Murphy* ***Colors:*** *Crimson, Black & White* ***Nickname:*** *Crimson* ***2008 Record:*** *9-1*

HAWAII
Honolulu, HI

S.4	Central Arkansas	
S.12	@WASHINGTON STATE*	24-10
S.19	@UNLV	
S.30	@LOUISIANA TECH	24-14
0.10	Fresno State	32-29 (OT)
0.17	@IDAHO	49-17
0.24	Boise State	7-27
0.31	@NEVADA	38-31
N.7	Utah State	14-30
N.14	New Mexico State	42-30
N.21	@SAN JOSE STATE	17-20
N.28	Navy	
D.5	Wisconsin	

@ At Seattle, WA
Coach: *Greg McMackin*
Colors: *Green, Black, Silver & White*
Nickname: *Warriors* ***2008 Record:*** *7-6*

HOFSTRA
Hempstead, NY

S.5	Stony Brook	43-3
S.12	@BRYANT	
S.19	@RICHMOND	14-34
S.26	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	
0.3	James Madison	0-56
0.10	Maine	40-41 (OT)
0.17	@RHODE ISLAND	23-20
0.24	New Hampshire	25-45
N.7	@DELAWARE	0-17
N.14	@NORTHEASTERN	42-14
N.21	Massachusetts	14-28

Coach: *Dave Cohen* ***Colors:*** *Blue, White & Gold*
Nickname: *Pride* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

HOLY CROSS
Worcester, MA

S.5	Georgetown	38-14
S.12	Sacred Heart	
S.19	Harvard	24-25
0.3	@NORTHEASTERN	
0.10	@BROWN	41-34
0.17	Dartmouth	44-26
0.24	Colgate	27-28
0.31	@FORDHAM	38-17
N.7	@LEHIGH	35-21
N.14	Lafayette	27-26
N.21	@BUCKNELL	34-17

Coach: *Tom Gilmore* ***Colors:*** *Royal Purple*
Nickname: *Crusaders* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

HOUSTON
Houston, TX

S.5	Northwestern State	
S.12	@OKLAHOMA STATE	37-56
S.26	Texas Tech	
0.3	@UTEP	42-37
0.10	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
0.17	@TULANE	42-14
0.24	Southern Methodist	44-38
0.31	Southern Miss	
N.7	@TULSA	70-30
N.14	@UCF	
N.21	Memphis	
N.28	Rice	42-56

Coach: *Kevin Sumlin*
Colors: *Scarlet & White*
Nickname: *Cougars* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

HOWARD
Washington, DC

S.12	@RUTGERS	
S.19	@FLORIDA A&M	24-51
S.26	@GEORGETOWN	7-12
0.3	Winston-Salem State	10-34
0.10	@HAMPTON	27-38
0.17	@MORGAN STATE	30-31 (OT)
0.24	North Carolina A&T	20-21
0.31	@NORFOLK STATE	12-49
N.7	South Carolina State	0-56
N.14	Bethune-Cookman	12-14
N.21	@DELAWARE STATE	6-10

Coach: *Carey Bailey* ***Colors:*** *Blue, White & Red*
Nickname: *Bison* ***2008 Record:*** *1-10*

IDAHO
Moscow, ID

S.5	@NEW MEXICO STATE	20-14
S.12	@WASHINGTON	
S.19	San Diego State	17-45
S.26	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
0.3	Colorado State	
0.10	@SAN JOSE STATE	24-30
0.17	Hawaii	17-49
0.24	@NEVADA	14-49
0.31	Louisiana Tech	14-46
N.7	Fresno State	32-45
N.14	@BOISE STATE	10-45
N.28	Utah State	17-42

Coach: *Robb Akey* ***Colors:*** *Silver & Vandal Gold*
Nickname: *Vandals* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

IDAHO STATE
Pocatello, ID

S.5	@ARIZONA STATE	
S.12	@OKLAHOMA	
S.19	@WEBER STATE	27-59
S.26	Central Washington	
0.3	Eastern Washington	31-45
0.10	@SACRAMENTO STATE	36-33 (OT)
0.17	Northern Colorado	9-29
0.24	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	30-52
0.31	@MONTANA STATE	21-33
N.7	Montana	10-29
N.14	Portland State	13-36

Coach: *John Zamberlin* ***Colors:*** *Black & Orange*
Nickname: *Bengals* ***2008 Record:*** *1-11*

ILLINOIS
Champaign, IL

S.5	Missouri*	42-52
S.12	Illinois State	
S.26	@OHIO STATE	20-30
0.3	Penn State	24-38
0.10	Michigan State	
0.17	@INDIANA#	55-13
0.24	@PURDUE	
0.31	Michigan	45-20
N.7	@MINNESOTA	20-27
N.14	Northwestern	10-27
N.27	@CINCINNATI	
D.5	Fresno State	

** At St. Louis, MO*
 # At Commerce, TX
Coach: *Ron Zook* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue*
Nickname: *Fighting Illini* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

ILLINOIS STATE
Normal, IL

S.3	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	21-25
S.12	@ILLINOIS	
S.19	Austin Peay	
S.26	South Dakota State	21-52
0.3	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	7-25
0.10	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	10-17 (OT)
0.17	Indiana State	57-6
0.31	@MISSOURI STATE	28-34
N.7	Western Illinois	45-48 (OT)
N.14	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	54-44
N.21	Northern Iowa	17-31

Coach: *Brock Spack* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Redbirds* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

INDIANA
Bloomington, IN

S.3	Eastern Kentucky	
S.12	Western Michigan	
S.19	@AKRON	
S.26	@MICHIGAN	
0.3	Ohio State	
0.10	@VIRGINIA	
0.17	Illinois	13-55
0.24	@NORTHWESTERN	21-19
0.31	@IOWA	9-45
N.7	Wisconsin	20-55
N.14	@PENN STATE	7-34
N.21	Purdue	10-62

Coach: *Bill Lynch* ***Colors:*** *Cream & Crimson*
Nickname: *Hoosiers* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

INDIANA STATE
Terre Haute, IN

A.27	Quincy	
S.5	@LOUISVILLE	
S.12	Eastern Illinois	3-38
S.19	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	9-49
S.26	Youngstown State	21-35
0.3	@NORTHERN IOWA	0-28
0.17	@ILLINOIS STATE	6-57
0.24	Western Illinois	0-56
0.31	Southern Illinois	7-60
N.7	@MISSOURI STATE	24-27 (OT)
N.14	North Dakota State	7-34

Coach: *Trent Miles* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Sycamores* ***2008 Record:*** *0-12*

IOWA
Iowa City, IA

S.5	Northern Iowa	
S.12	@IOWA STATE	17-5
S.19	Arizona	
S.26	@PENN STATE	24-23
0.3	Arkansas State	
0.10	Michigan	
0.17	@WISCONSIN	38-16
0.24	@MICHIGAN STATE	13-16
0.31	Indiana	45-9
N.7	Northwestern	17-22
N.14	@OHIO STATE	
N.21	Minnesota	55-0

Coach: *Kirk Ferentz* ***Colors:*** *Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Hawkeyes* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

IOWA STATE
Ames, IA

S.3	North Dakota State	
S.12	Iowa	5-17
S.19	@KENT STATE	48-28
S.26	Army	
0.3	Kansas State*	30-38
0.10	@KANSAS	33-35
0.17	Baylor	10-38
0.24	@NEBRASKA	7-35
0.31	@TEXAS A&M	35-49
N.7	Oklahoma State	17-59
N.14	Colorado	24-28
N.21	@MISSOURI	20-52

** At Kansas City, MO*
Coach: *Paul Rhoads* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Gold*
Nickname: *Cyclones* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

JACKSON STATE
Jackson, MS

S.5	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	
S.12	Tennessee State*	18-41
S.19	Grambling State	9-41
0.3	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY#	28-35
0.10	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	21-10
0.17	Texas Southern	30-14
0.24	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	29-27
N.7	Alabama State	20-0
N.14	@ALABAMA A&M	37-21
N.21	Alcorn State	26-21

** At Memphis, TN*
 # At Jackson, MS
Coach: *Rick Comegy* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

JACKSONVILLE
Jacksonville, FL

S.5	@WEBBER INTERNATIONAL	51-7
S.12	@SAMFORD	
S.19	Old Dominion	
0.3	Davidson	35-38
0.10	@MARIST	
0.17	Morehead State	40-9
0.24	@SAN DIEGO	30-29
0.31	@DRAKE	41-9
N.7	Valparaiso	40-24
N.14	Butler	45-9
N.21	@CAMPBELL	52-0

Coach: *Kerwin Bell* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Dolphins* ***2008 Record:*** *9-4*

JACKSONVILLE STATE
Jacksonville, AL

S.5	@GEORGIA TECH	14-41
S.12	@FLORIDA STATE	
S.19	@ALABAMA A&M	45-18
S.26	@NICHOLLS STATE	
0.3	Tennessee-Martin	30-31
0.10	@MURRAY STATE	31-21
0.24	Eastern Illinois	23-10
0.31	@AUSTIN PEAY	35-22
N.7	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	38-17
N.14	Tennessee Tech	41-17
N.21	Eastern Kentucky	35-38

Coach: *Jack Crowe* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Gamecocks* ***2008 Record:*** *8-3*

JAMES MADISON
Harrisonburg, VA

S.12	@MARYLAND	
S.19	Virginia Military	
S.26	@LIBERTY	
0.3	@HOFSTRA	56-0
0.10	Richmond	38-31
0.17	Villanova	31-27
0.24	@WILLIAM & MARY	48-24
0.31	@DELAWARE	41-7
N.7	Maine	24-10
N.14	@MASSACHUSETTS	52-38
N.21	Towson	58-27

Coach: *Mickey Matthews*
Colors: *Purple & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Dukes*
2008 Record: *12-2*

KANSAS
Lawrence, KS

S.5	Northern Colorado	
S.12	@UTEP	
S.19	Duke	
S.26	Southern Miss	
0.10	Iowa State	35-33
0.17	@COLORADO	30-14
0.24	Oklahoma	31-45
0.31	@TEXAS TECH	21-63
N.7	@KANSAS STATE	52-21
N.14	Nebraska	35-45
N.21	@TEXAS	7-35
N.28	Missouri*	40-37

** At Kansas City, MO*
Coach: *Mark Mangino* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Blue*
Nickname: *Jayhawks* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

KANSAS STATE
Manhattan, KS

S.5	Massachusetts	
S.12	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	45-37
S.19	@UCLA	
S.26	Tennessee Tech	
0.3	@IOWA STATE*	38-30
0.10	@TEXAS TECH	28-58
0.17	Texas A&M	44-30
0.24	Colorado	13-14
0.31	@OKLAHOMA	35-58
N.7	Kansas	21-52
N.14	Missouri	24-41
N.21	@NEBRASKA	28-56

** At Kansas City, MO*
Coach: *Bill Snyder* ***Colors:*** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

KENT STATE
Kent, OH

S.3	Coastal Carolina	
S.12	@BOSTON COLLEGE	0-21
S.19	Iowa State	28-48
S.26	Miami (OH)	54-21
0.3	@BAYLOR	
0.10	Bowling Green	30-45
0.17	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	
0.24	@OHIO	19-26
0.31	Western Michigan	
N.7	@AKRON	27-30 (OT)
N.21	@TEMPLE	41-38
N.27	Buffalo	24-21

Coach: *Doug Martin*
Colors: *Navy Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Flashes* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

KENTUCKY
Lexington, KY

S.5	@MIAMI (OH)*	
S.19	Louisville	27-2
S.26	Florida	5-63
0.3	Alabama	14-17
0.10	@SOUTH CAROLINA	17-24
0.17	@AUBURN	
0.24	Louisiana-Monroe	
0.31	Mississippi State	14-13
N.7	Eastern Kentucky	
N.14	@VANDERBILT	24-31
N.21	@GEORGIA	38-42
N.28	Tennessee	10-28

** At Cincinnati, OH*
Coach: *Rich Brooks* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

LAFAYETTE
Easton, PA

S.12	@GEORGETOWN	24-6
S.19	Liberty	35-21
S.26	Pennsylvania	24-17
0.3	@YALE	
0.10	Columbia	13-3
0.17	@HARVARD	13-27
0.24	Fordham	48-13
0.31	Bucknell	38-21
N.7	Colgate	13-21
N.14	@HOLY CROSS	26-27
N.21	@LEHIGH	15-31

Coach: *Frank Tavani* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Leopards* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

LEHIGH
Bethlehem, PA

S.5	Central Connecticut State	
S.12	@VILLANOVA	14-33
S.26	Princeton	7-10
0.3	Harvard	24-27
0.10	Georgetown	33-13
0.17	Yale	
0.24	@BUCKNELL	31-15
0.31	@COLGATE	33-34
N.7	Holy Cross	21-35
N.14	@FORDHAM	45-24
N.21	Lafayette	31-15

Coach: *Andy Coen* ***Colors:*** *Brown & White*
Nickname: *Mountain Hawks* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

LIBERTY
Lynchburg, VA

S.5	@WEST VIRGINIA	
S.12	North Carolina Central	
S.19	@LAFAYETTE	21-35
S.26	James Madison	
0.3	West Virginia Wesleyan	
0.17	Coastal Carolina	43-38
0.24	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	42-0
0.31	Presbyterian	28-31
N.7	Virginia Military	38-26
N.14	@GARDNER-WEBB	30-10
N.21	@STONY BROOK	33-0

Coach: *Danny Rocco* ***Colors:*** *Red, White & Blue*
Nickname: *Flames* ***2008 Record:*** *10-2*

LOUISIANA TECH
Ruston, LA

S.5	@AUBURN	
S.12	@NAVY	
S.19	Nicholls State	
S.30	Hawaii	14-24
0.9	@NEVADA	31-35
0.17	New Mexico State	35-31
0.24	@UTAH STATE	45-38
0.31	@IDAHO	46-14
N.6	Boise State	3-38
N.14	@LSU	
N.21	@FRESNO STATE	38-35
D.5	San Jose State	21-0

Coach: *Derek Dooley* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE
Lafayette, LA

S.5	Southern University	
S.12	Kansas State	37-45
S.19	@LSU	
S.26	@NEBRASKA	
0.10	North Texas	59-30
0.17	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	
0.24	Florida Atlantic	29-40
0.31	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	49-20
N.7	@ARKANSAS STATE	28-23
N.14	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	42-28
N.21	Louisiana-Monroe	44-35
N.28	Troy	3-48

Coach: *Rickey Bustle* ***Colors:*** *Vermillion & White*
Nickname: *Ragin' Cajuns* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

LOUISIANA-MONROE
Monroe, LA

S.5	@TEXAS	
S.12	Texas Southern	
S.19	@ARIZONA STATE	
S.26	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	28-29
0.3	Florida International	31-27
0.13	Arkansas State	29-37
0.24	@KENTUCKY	
0.31	@TROY	31-30
N.7	@NORTH TEXAS	35-23
N.14	Western Kentucky	
N.21	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	35-44
N.28	Middle Tennessee	21-24

Coach: *Charlie Weatherbie*
Colors: *Maroon & Gold* ***Nickname:*** *Warhawks*
2008 Record: *4-8*

LOUISVILLE
Louisville, KY

S.5	Indiana State	
S.19	@KENTUCKY	2-27
S.26	@UTAH	
0.2	Pittsburgh	7-41
0.10	Southern Miss	
0.17	@CONNECTICUT	21-26
0.24	@CINCINNATI	20-28
0.31	Arkansas State	
N.7	@WEST VIRGINIA	21-35
N.14	Syracuse	21-28
N.21	@SOUTH FLORIDA	24-20
N.27	Rutgers	14-63

Coach: *Steve Kragthorpe*
Colors: *Red, White & Black*
Nickname: *Cardinals* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

LSU
Baton Rouge, LA

S.5	@WASHINGTON	
S.12	Vanderbilt	
S.19	Louisiana-Lafayette	
S.26	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	34-24
0.3	@GEORGIA	38-52
0.10	Florida	21-51
0.24	Auburn	26-21
0.31	Tulane	35-10
N.7	@ALABAMA	21-27 (OT)
N.14	Louisiana Tech	
N.21	@OLE MISS	13-31
N.28	Arkansas	30-31

Coach: *Les Miles* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

MAINE
Orono, ME

S.12	@NORTHEASTERN	20-0
S.19	@ALBANY	
S.26	@SYRACUSE	
0.3	Delaware	27-10
0.10	@HOFSTRA	41-40 (OT)
0.17	Richmond	17-44
0.31	Massachusetts	21-20
N.7	@JAMES MADISON	10-24
N.14	Rhode Island	37-7
N.21	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	24-28

Coach: *Jack Cosgrove* ***Colors:*** *White & Blue*
Nickname: *Black Bears* ***2008 Record:*** *8-5*

MARIST
Poughkeepsie, NY

S.5	@SACRED HEART	16-28
S.12	Drake	
S.19	@SAN DIEGO	22-40
S.26	@BUCKNELL	17-21
0.3	Campbell	
0.10	Jacksonville	
0.24	@MOREHEAD STATE	
0.31	Valparaiso	
N.7	Georgetown	12-13
N.14	@DAVIDSON	24-19
N.21	@DAYTON	

Coach: *Jim Parady* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Red Foxes* ***2008 Record:*** *4-7*

MARSHALL
Huntington, WV

S.5	Southern Illinois	
S.12	@VIRGINIA TECH	
S.19	Bowling Green	
S.26	@MEMPHIS	17-16
0.3	East Carolina	16-19 (OT)
0.10	@TULANE	
0.17	@WEST VIRGINIA	3-27
0.24	UAB	21-23
N.1	@UCF	14-30
N.14	Southern Miss	34-27
N.21	Southern Methodist	
N.28	@UTEP	

Coach: *Mark Snyder* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Thundering Herd* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

MARYLAND
College Park, MD

S.5	@CALIFORNIA	35-27
S.12	James Madison	
S.19	Middle Tennessee	14-24
S.26	Rutgers	
0.3	Clemson	20-17
0.10	@WAKE FOREST	26-0
0.17	Virginia	0-31
0.24	@DUKE	
N.7	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	27-24
N.14	Virginia Tech	13-23
N.21	@FLORIDA STATE	3-37
N.28	Boston College	21-28

Coach: *Ralph Friedgen*
Colors: *Red, White, Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Terrapins* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

MASSACHUSETTS
Amherst, MA

S.5	@KANSAS STATE	
S.12	Albany	28-16
S.19	Rhode Island	49-0
S.26	Stony Brook	
0.10	@DELAWARE	17-7
0.17	New Hampshire	21-52
0.24	@RICHMOND	15-30
0.31	@MAINE	20-21
N.7	Northeastern	28-24
N.14	James Madison	38-52
N.21	@HOFSTRA	28-14

Coach: *Kevin Morris* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Minutemen* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

McNEESE STATE
Lake Charles, LA

S.5	Henderson State	
S.12	@APPALACHIAN STATE	
S.19	Savannah State	
S.26	@TULANE	
0.10	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	42-31
0.17	Northwestern State	24-17
0.24	Southeastern Louisiana	24-14
0.31	@NICHOLLS STATE	35-38
N.7	Sam Houston State	28-17
N.14	@TEXAS STATE	42-45
N.21	Central Arkansas	30-47

Coach: *Matt Viator* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Cowboys* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

MEMPHIS
Memphis, TN

S.5	Ole Miss	24-41
S.12	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	
S.19	Tennessee-Martin	
S.26	Marshall	16-17
0.3	@UCF	21-28
0.10	UTEP	
0.17	@SOUTHERN MISS	36-30
0.27	East Carolina	10-30
N.7	@TENNESSEE	
N.14	UAB	33-30
N.21	@HOUSTON	
N.28	@TULSA	

Coach: *Tommy West* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

MIAMI (FL)
Coral Gables, FL

S.7	@FLORIDA STATE	39-41
S.17	Georgia Tech	23-41
S.26	@VIRGINIA TECH	16-14
0.3	Oklahoma	
0.10	Florida A&M	
0.17	@UCF	20-14
0.24	Clemson	
0.31	@WAKE FOREST	16-10
N.7	Virginia	24-17 (OT)
N.14	@NORTH CAROLINA	24-28
N.21	Duke	49-31
N.28	@SOUTH FLORIDA	

Coach: *Randy Shannon*
Colors: *Orange, Green & White*
Nickname: *Hurricanes* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

MIAMI (OH)
Oxford, OH

S.5	Kentucky*	
S.12	@BOISE STATE	
S.19	@WESTERN MICHIGAN	
S.26	@KENT STATE	21-54
0.3	Cincinnati	20-45
0.10	@NORTHWESTERN	
0.17	@OHIO	26-41
0.24	Northern Illinois	13-17
0.31	Toledo	14-42
N.5	@TEMPLE	10-28
N.12	Bowling Green	27-20
N.18	Buffalo	17-37

** At Cincinnati, OH*
Coach: *Mike Haywood* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *RedHawks* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

MICHIGAN
Ann Arbor, MI

S.5	Western Michigan	
S.12	Notre Dame	17-35
S.19	Eastern Michigan	
S.26	Indiana	
0.3	@MICHIGAN STATE	21-35
0.10	@IOWA	
0.17	Delaware State	
0.24	Penn State	17-46
0.31	@ILLINOIS	20-45
N.7	Purdue	42-48
N.14	@WISCONSIN	27-25
N.21	Ohio State	7-42

Coach: *Rich Rodriguez* ***Colors:*** *Maize & Blue*
Nickname: *Wolverines* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

MICHIGAN STATE
East Lansing, MI

S.5	Montana State	
S.12	Central Michigan	
S.19	@NOTRE DAME	23-7
S.26	@WISCONSIN	25-24
0.3	Michigan	35-21
0.10	@ILLINOIS	
0.17	Northwestern	37-20
0.24	Iowa	16-13
0.31	@MINNESOTA	
N.7	Western Michigan	
N.14	@PURDUE	21-7
N.21	Penn State	18-49

Coach: *Mark Dantonio* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Spartans* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

MIDDLE TENNESSEE
Murfreesboro, TN

S.5	@CLEMSON	
S.12	Memphis	
S.19	@MARYLAND	24-14
S.26	@NORTH TEXAS	52-13
0.6	@TROY	17-31
0.17	Mississippi State	22-31
0.24	Western Kentucky	21-10
0.31	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	14-13
N.7	Florida International	21-31
N.14	Louisiana-Lafayette	28-42
N.21	Arkansas State	14-31
N.28	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	24-21

Coach: *Rick Stockstill* ***Colors:*** *Royal Blue & White*
Nickname: *Blue Raiders* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis, MN

S.5	@SYRACUSE	
S.12	Air Force	
S.19	California	
S.26	@NORTHWESTERN	17-24
0.3	Wisconsin	32-35
0.10	Purdue	17-6
0.17	@PENN STATE	
0.24	@OHIO STATE	21-34
0.31	Michigan State	
N.7	Illinois	27-20
N.14	South Dakota State	
N.21	@IOWA	0-55

Coach: *Tim Brewster* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Gophers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

MISSISSIPPI STATE
Starkville, MS

S.5	Jackson State	
S.12	@AUBURN	2-3
S.19	@VANDERBILT	17-14
S.26	LSU	24-34
0.3	Georgia Tech	7-38
0.10	Houston	
0.17	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	31-22
0.24	Florida	
0.31	@KENTUCKY	13-14
N.14	Alabama	7-32
N.21	@ARKANSAS*	31-28
N.28	Ole Miss	0-45

** At Little Rock, AR*
Coach: *Dan Mullen* ***Colors:*** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
Itta Bena, MS

S.5	@ARKANSAS STATE	
S.19	Arkansas-Pine Bluff*	0-34
S.26	Alabama State	7-47
0.3	Texas College	38-0
0.10	@ALCORN STATE	21-35
0.17	@PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	15-49
0.24	Jackson State	27-29
0.31	@GRAMBLING STATE	14-35
N.7	Texas Southern	58-44
N.14	Lincoln (MO)	
N.21	@ALABAMA A&M	23-58

** At Chicago, IL*
Coach: *Willie Totten* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Delta Devils* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

MISSOURI
Columbia, MO

S.5	@ILLINOIS*	52-42
S.12	Bowling Green	
S.19	Furman	
S.25	@NEVADA	69-17
0.8	Nebraska	52-17
0.17	@OKLAHOMA STATE	23-28
0.24	Texas	31-56
0.31	@COLORADO	58-0
N.7	Baylor	31-28
N.14	@KANSAS STATE	41-24
N.21	Iowa State	52-20
N.28	@KANSAS#	37-40

** At St. Louis, MO*
 # At Kansas City, MO
Coach: *Gary Pinkel* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-4*

MISSOURI STATE
Springfield, MO

S.5	@ARKANSAS*	
S.12	Tennessee-Martin	
S.19	Murray State	
S.26	Northern Iowa	0-42
O.3	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	42-28
O.10	South Dakota State	13-43
O.17	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	21-33
O.24	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	27-48
O.31	Illinois State	34-28
N.7	Indiana State	27-24 (OT)
N.14	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	17-23

** At Little Rock, AR*
Coach: *Terry Allen* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Bears* **2008 Record:** *4-7*

MONMOUTH
West Long Branch, NJ

S.5	@COLGATE	
S.12	@COASTAL CAROLINA	7-26
S.19	Duquesne	37-14
S.26	@OLD DOMINION	
O.10	Wagner	31-17
O.17	@SACRED HEART	19-7
O.24	Albany	17-35
O.31	Bryant	30-17
N.7	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	42-15
N.14	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	30-20
N.21	Robert Morris	34-26

Coach: *Kevin Callahan*
Colors: *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Hawks* **2008 Record:** *7-4*

MONTANA
Missoula, MT

S.5	Western State	
S.12	@UC-DAVIS	29-24
S.19	Portland State	29-12
S.26	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	45-10
O.10	Cal Poly	30-28
O.17	Eastern Washington	19-3
O.24	@SACRAMENTO STATE	43-7
O.31	Weber State	24-13
N.7	@IDAHO STATE	29-10
N.14	Northern Colorado	41-20
N.21	@MONTANA STATE	35-3

Coach: *Bobby Hauck* **Colors:** *Copper, Silver & Gold*
Nickname: *Grizzlies* **2008 Record:** *14-2*

MONTANA STATE
Bozeman, MT

S.5	@MICHIGAN STATE	
S.12	Dixie State	
S.26	@NORTHERN COLORADO	20-7
O.3	@WEBER STATE	12-35
O.10	Northern Arizona	25-23
O.17	South Dakota	37-18
O.24	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	17-34
O.31	Idaho State	33-21
N.7	@PORTLAND STATE	49-32
N.14	Sacramento State	31-20
N.21	Montana	3-35

Coach: *Rob Ash* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Bobcats* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

MOREHEAD STATE
Morehead, KY

S.5	Southern Virginia	49-6
S.12	@ST. FRANCIS (PA)	36-21
S.19	@NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL	
S.26	Butler	21-31
O.3	Dayton	14-13
O.10	@DAVIDSON	26-13
O.17	@JACKSONVILLE	9-40
O.24	Marist	
O.31	@CAMPBELL	42-7
N.14	San Diego	17-41
N.21	@VALPARAISO	44-10

Coach: *Matt Ballard* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Eagles* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

MORGAN STATE
Baltimore, MD

S.12	@AKRON	
S.19	Winston-Salem State*	21-7
S.26	Towson	16-21
O.3	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	27-31
O.10	North Carolina A&T	41-3
O.17	Howard	31-30 (OT)
O.24	@DELAWARE STATE	20-3
O.31	Florida A&M	13-10
N.7	Norfolk State	9-35
N.14	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	0-32
N.21	@HAMPTON	13-17

** At East Rutherford, NY*
Coach: *Donald Hill-Eley* **Colors:** *Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Bears* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

MURRAY STATE
Murray, KY

S.3	Kentucky Wesleyan	
S.12	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
S.19	@MISSOURI STATE	
S.26	Eastern Kentucky	7-34
O.10	Jacksonville State	21-31
O.17	@TENNESSEE STATE	24-17
O.24	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	38-63
O.31	Eastern Illinois	6-34
N.7	Austin Peay	32-12
N.14	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	17-10
N.21	@TENNESSEE TECH	51-21

Coach: *Matt Griffin* **Colors:** *Navy & Gold*
Nickname: *Racers* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

NAVY
Annapolis, MD

S.5	@OHIO STATE	
S.12	Louisiana Tech	
S.19	@PITTSBURGH	21-42
S.26	Western Kentucky	
O.3	Air Force	33-27
O.10	@RICE	
O.17	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	34-7
O.24	Wake Forest	24-17
O.31	Temple	33-27 (OT)
N.7	@NOTRE DAME	21-27
N.14	Delaware	
N.28	@HAWAII	
D.12	Army*	34-0

** At Philadelphia, PA*
Coach: *Ken Niumatalolo* **Colors:** *Navy Blue & Gold* **Nickname:** *Midshipmen* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

NEBRASKA
Lincoln, NE

S.5	Florida Atlantic	
S.12	Arkansas State	
S.19	@VIRGINIA TECH	30-35
S.26	Louisiana-Lafayette	
O.8	@MISSOURI	17-52
O.17	Texas Tech	31-37 (OT)
O.24	Iowa State	35-7
O.31	@BAYLOR	32-20
N.7	Oklahoma	28-62
N.14	@KANSAS	45-35
N.21	Kansas State	56-28
N.27	@COLORADO	40-31

Coach: *Bo Pelini* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Cream*
Nickname: *Cornhuskers* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

NEVADA
Reno, NV

S.5	@NOTRE DAME	
S.19	@COLORADO STATE	
S.25	Missouri	17-69
O.3	UNLV	49-27
O.9	Louisiana Tech	35-31
O.17	@UTAH STATE	44-17
O.24	Idaho	49-14
O.31	Hawaii	31-38
N.8	@SAN JOSE STATE	41-17
N.14	Fresno State	41-28
N.21	@NEW MEXICO STATE	45-48
N.27	@BOISE STATE	34-41

Coach: *Chris Ault* **Colors:** *Silver & Navy Blue*
Nickname: *Wolf Pack* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Durham, NH

S.5	St. Francis (PA)	
S.12	@BALL STATE	
S.26	Dartmouth	42-6
O.3	@TOWSON	42-14
O.10	Villanova	13-24
O.17	@MASSACHUSETTS	52-21
O.24	@HOFSTRA	45-25
O.31	Northeastern	33-21
N.7	Rhode Island	51-43
N.14	@WILLIAM & MARY	34-38
N.21	Maine	28-24

Coach: *Sean McDonnell* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* **2008 Record:** *10-3*

NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque, NM

S.5	@TEXAS A&M	22-28
S.12	Tulsa	14-56
S.19	Air Force	10-23
S.26	New Mexico State	35-24
O.3	@TEXAS TECH	
O.10	@WYOMING	24-0
O.24	UNLV	20-27
O.31	@SAN DIEGO STATE	70-7
N.7	@UTAH	10-13
N.14	Brigham Young	3-21
N.21	Colorado State	6-20
N.28	@TCU	3-26

Coach: *Mike Locksley* **Colors:** *Cherry & Silver*
Nickname: *Lobos* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

NEW MEXICO STATE
Las Cruces, NM

S.5	Idaho	14-20
S.12	Prairie View A&M	
S.19	UTEP	34-33
S.26	@NEW MEXICO	24-35
O.3	@SAN DIEGO STATE	
O.10	Utah State	2-47
O.17	@LOUISIANA TECH	31-35
O.24	Fresno State	17-24
O.31	@OHIO STATE	
N.14	@HAWAII	30-42
N.21	Nevada	48-45
N.28	@SAN JOSE STATE	14-31
D.5	@BOISE STATE	0-49

Coach: *DeWayne Walker* **Colors:** *Crimson & White*
Nickname: *Aggies* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

NICHOLLS STATE
Thibodaux, LA

S.5	@AIR FORCE	
S.12	Duquesne	
S.19	@LOUISIANA TECH	
S.26	Jacksonville State	
O.10	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	37-47
O.17	Texas State	10-34
O.24	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	20-17
O.31	McNeese State	38-35
N.7	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	39-50
N.14	Northwestern State	28-36
N.19	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	35-28

Coach: *Jay Thomas* **Colors:** *Red & Gray*
Nickname: *Colonels* **2008 Record:** *3-6*

NORFOLK STATE
Norfolk, VA

S.5	Virginia State	47-7
S.12	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	27-21
S.19	William & Mary	12-42
S.26	Bethune-Cookman	17-33
O.10	South Carolina State	23-24
O.17	Hampton	17-35
O.24	@FLORIDA A&M	28-31
O.31	Howard	49-12
N.7	@MORGAN STATE	35-9
N.14	@DELAWARE STATE	28-34
N.21	Winston-Salem State	17-14

Coach: *Pete Adrian* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Spartans* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

NORTH CAROLINA
Chapel Hill, NC

S.5	Citadel	
S.12	@CONNECTICUT	38-12
S.19	East Carolina	
S.26	@GEORGIA TECH	28-7
O.3	Virginia	13-16 (OT)
O.10	Georgia Southern	
O.22	Florida State	
O.29	@VIRGINIA TECH	17-20
N.7	Duke	28-20
N.14	Miami (FL)	28-24
N.21	@BOSTON COLLEGE	45-24
N.28	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	10-41

Coach: *Butch Davis* **Colors:** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Tar Heels* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

NORTH CAROLINA A&T
Greensboro, NC

S.5	@WINSTON-SALEM STATE	14-8
S.12	Norfolk State	21-27
S.19	Hampton	7-44
S.26	@COASTAL CAROLINA	7-20
O.3	North Carolina Central	27-28
O.10	@MORGAN STATE	3-41
O.24	@HOWARD	21-20
O.31	Bethune-Cookman	14-24
N.7	@FLORIDA A&M	7-45
N.21	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	0-55

Coach: *Alonzo Lee* **Colors:** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Aggies* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL
Durham, NC

S.5	@HAMPTON	
S.12	@LIBERTY	
S.19	Morehead State	
S.26	@DUKE	
O.3	@NORTH CAROLINA A&T	28-27
O.10	@APPALACHIAN STATE	
O.17	Central Methodist	
O.31	Central State	
N.7	@OLD DOMINION	
N.14	@WINSTON-SALEM STATE	23-16
N.21	Savannah State	10-7

Coach: *Mose Rison* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gray*
Nickname: *Eagles* **2008 Record:** *4-7*

NORTH CAROLINA STATE
Raleigh, NC

S.3	South Carolina	0-34
S.12	Murray State	
S.19	Gardner-Webb	
S.26	Pittsburgh	
O.3	@WAKE FOREST	21-17
O.10	Duke	27-17
O.17	@BOSTON COLLEGE	31-38
O.31	@FLORIDA STATE	17-26
N.7	Maryland	24-27
N.14	Clemson	9-27
N.21	@VIRGINIA TECH	
N.28	North Carolina	41-10

Coach: *Tom O'Brien* **Colors:** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Wolfpack* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

NORTH DAKOTA
Grand Forks, ND

S.5	@TEXAS TECH	
S.19	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	
S.26	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	
O.3	South Dakota	34-31 (OT)
O.10	Stony Brook	
O.15	Sioux Falls	
O.24	@SOUTHERN UTAH	14-15
O.31	Cal Poly	
N.7	Southern Oregon	
N.14	@UC-DAVIS	21-34
N.28	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	

Coach: *Chris Mussman*
Colors: *Kelly Green & White*
Nickname: *Fighting Sioux* **2008 Record:** *6-4*

NORTH DAKOTA STATE
Fargo, ND

S.3	@IOWA STATE	
S.12	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	
S.19	Wagner	
S.26	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	35-27
O.3	Illinois State	25-7
O.10	Northern Iowa	13-23
O.17	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	24-25
O.24	Missouri State	48-27
O.31	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	22-27
N.14	@INDIANA STATE	34-7
N.21	Youngstown State	24-32

Coach: *Craig Bohl* **Colors:** *Green & Yellow*
Nickname: *Bison* **2008 Record:** *6-5*

NORTH TEXAS
Denton, TX

S.3	@BALL STATE	
S.12	Ohio	
S.19	@ALABAMA	
S.26	Middle Tennessee	13-52
O.10	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	30-59
O.17	Florida Atlantic	13-46
O.24	@TROY	17-45
O.31	Western Kentucky	51-40
N.7	Louisiana-Monroe	23-35
N.14	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	10-42
N.21	Army	
N.28	@ARKANSAS STATE	28-33

Coach: *Todd Dodge* **Colors:** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Mean Green* **2008 Record:** *1-11*

NORTHEASTERN
Boston, MA

S.5	@BOSTON COLLEGE	
S.12	Maine	0-20
S.19	Youngstown State	
S.26	@VILLANOVA	14-20
O.3	Holy Cross	
O.10	William & Mary	17-38
O.24	Towson	35-17
O.31	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	21-33
N.7	@MASSACHUSETTS	24-28
N.14	Hofstra	14-42
N.21	@RHODE ISLAND	14-29

Coach: *Rocky Hager* **Colors:** *Red & Black*
Nickname: *Huskies* **2008 Record:** *2-10*

NORTHERN ARIZONA
Flagstaff, AZ

S.12	@ARIZONA	
S.19	Southern Utah	19-14
S.26	Montana	10-45
O.3	Northern Colorado	25-22
O.10	@MONTANA STATE	23-25
O.17	@PORTLAND STATE	37-17
O.24	Idaho State	52-30
O.31	@SACRAMENTO STATE	42-10
N.7	@OLE MISS	
N.14	@WEBER STATE	14-42
N.21	Eastern Washington	13-28

Coach: *Jerome Souers* **Colors:** *Blue, Gold & Sage*
Nickname: *Lumberjacks* **2008 Record:** *6-5*

NORTHERN COLORADO
Greeley, CO

S.5	@KANSAS	
S.12	San Diego	
S.19	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	16-31
S.26	Montana State	7-20
O.3	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	22-25
O.10	Portland State	21-24
O.17	@IDAHO STATE	29-9
O.24	Weber State	10-17
O.31	South Dakota	
N.7	Sacramento State	25-45
N.14	@MONTANA	20-41

Coach: *Scott Downing* **Colors:** *Navy & Gold*
Nickname: *Bears* **2008 Record:** *1-10*

NORTHERN ILLINOIS
De Kalb, IL

S.5	@WISCONSIN	
S.12	Western Illinois	
S.19	@PURDUE	
S.26	Idaho	
O.3	Western Michigan	26-29
O.17	@TOLEDO	38-7
O.24	@MIAMI (OH)	17-13
O.31	Akron	
N.5	Eastern Michigan	37-0
N.12	Ball State	14-45
N.21	@OHIO	
N.27	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	30-33 (OT)

Coach: *Jerry Kill* **Colors:** *Cardinal & Black*
Nickname: *Huskies* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

NORTHERN IOWA
Cedar Falls, IA

S.5	@IOWA	
S.12	South Dakota	24-13
S.19	St. Francis (PA)	
S.26	@MISSOURI STATE	42-0
O.3	Indiana State	28-0
O.10	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	23-13
O.17	Southern Illinois	24-27
O.24	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	34-20
N.7	Youngstown State	21-20
N.14	Western Illinois	30-6
N.21	@ILLINOIS STATE	31-17

Coach: *Mark Farley* **Colors:** *Purple & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Panthers* **2008 Record:** *12-3*

NORTHWESTERN
Evanston, IL

S.5	Towson	
S.12	Eastern Michigan	
S.19	@SYRACUSE	30-10
S.26	Minnesota	24-17
O.3	@PURDUE	48-26
O.10	Miami (OH)	
O.17	@MICHIGAN STATE	20-37
O.24	Indiana	19-21
O.31	Penn State	
N.7	@IOWA	22-17
N.14	@ILLINOIS	27-10
N.21	Wisconsin	

Coach: *Pat Fitzgerald* **Colors:** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* **2008 Record:** *9-3*

NORTHWESTERN STATE
Natchitoches, LA

S.5	@HOUSTON	
S.12	@GRAMBLING STATE	31-19
S.19	North Dakota	
S.26	@BAYLOR	6-51
O.10	Central Arkansas	6-42
O.17	@McNEESE STATE	17-24
O.24	Texas State	34-31 (OT)
O.31	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	24-16
N.7	Southeastern Louisiana	21-26
N.14	@NICHOLLS STATE	36-28
N.21	Stephen F. Austin	34-24

Coach: *Bradley Dale Peveto*
Colors: *Purple, White & Orange*
Nickname: *Demons* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

NOTRE DAME
Notre Dame, IN

S.5	Nevada	
S.12	@MICHIGAN	35-17
S.19	Michigan State	7-23
S.26	@PURDUE	38-21
O.3	Washington	33-7
O.17	USC	3-38
O.24	Boston College	0-17
O.31	@WASHINGTON STATE*	
N.7	Navy	27-21
N.14	@PITTSBURGH	33-36 (OT)
N.21	Connecticut	
N.28	@STANFORD	28-21

** At San Antonio, TX*
Coach: *Charlie Weis* **Colors:** *Gold & Blue*
Nickname: *Fighting Irish* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

OHIO
Athens, OH

S.5	Connecticut	
S.12	@NORTH TEXAS	
S.19	Cal Poly	
S.26	@TENNESSEE	
O.3	@BOWLING GREEN	3-28
O.10	@AKRON	49-42
O.17	Miami (OH)	41-26
O.24	Kent State	26-19
O.31	@BALL STATE	
N.10	@BUFFALO	19-32
N.21	Northern Illinois	
N.27	Temple	10-14

Coach: *Frank Solich* **Colors:** *Hunter Green & White*
Nickname: *Bobcats* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

OHIO STATE
Columbus, OH

S.5	Navy	
S.12	USC	3-35
S.19	@TOLEDO*	

S.26	Illinois	30-20
0.3	@INDIANA	
0.10	Wisconsin	20-17
0.17	@PURDUE	16-3
0.24	Minnesota	34-21
0.31	New Mexico State	
N.7	@PENN STATE	6-13
N.14	Iowa	
N.21	@MICHIGAN	42-7

** At Cleveland, OH*
Coach: *Jim Tressel* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Gray*
Nickname: *Buckeyes* ***2008 Record:*** *10-2*

OKLAHOMA
Norman, OK

S.5	Brigham Young*	
S.12	Idaho State	
S.19	Tulsa	
0.3	@MIAMI (FL)	
0.10	Baylor	49-17
0.17	@TEXAS#	35-45
0.24	@KANSAS	45-31
0.31	Kansas State	58-35
N.7	@NEBRASKA	62-28
N.14	Texas A&M	66-28
N.21	@TEXAS TECH	65-21
N.28	Oklahoma State	61-41

** At Arlington, TX*
 # At Dallas, TX
Coach: *Bob Stoops* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Cream*
Nickname: *Sooners* ***2008 Record:*** *12-1*

OKLAHOMA STATE
Stillwater, OK

S.5	Georgia	
S.12	Houston	56-37
S.19	Rice	
S.26	Grambling State	
0.10	@TEXAS A&M	56-28
0.17	Missouri	28-23
0.24	@BAYLOR	34-6
0.31	Texas	24-28
N.7	@IOWA STATE	59-17
N.14	Texas Tech	20-56
N.19	Colorado	30-17
N.28	@OKLAHOMA	41-61

Coach: *Mike Gundy* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Black*
Nickname: *Cowboys* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

OLD DOMINION
Norfolk, VA

S.5	Chowan	
S.12	Virginia Union	
S.19	@JACKSONVILLE	
S.26	Monmouth	
0.3	@FORDHAM	
0.10	Presbyterian	
0.17	Campbell	
0.24	@SAVANNAH STATE	
0.31	Georgetown	
N.7	North Carolina Central	
N.21	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	

Coach: *Bobby Wilder*
Colors: *Slate Blue, Silver & Light Blue*
Nickname: *Monarchs*

OLE MISS
Oxford, MS

S.5	@MEMPHIS	41-24
S.19	Southeastern Louisiana	
S.24	@SOUTH CAROLINA	24-31
0.3	@VANDERBILT	17-23
0.10	Alabama	20-24
0.17	UAB	
0.24	Arkansas	23-21
0.31	@AUBURN	17-7
N.7	Northern Arizona	
N.14	Tennessee	
N.21	LSU	31-13
N.28	@MISSISSIPPI STATE	45-0

Coach: *Houston Nutt*
Colors: *Cardinal Red & Navy Blue*
Nickname: *Rebels* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

OREGON
Eugene, OR

S.3	@BOISE STATE	32-37
S.12	Purdue	32-26 (OT)
S.19	Utah	
S.26	California	16-26
0.3	Washington State	63-14
0.10	@UCLA	31-24
0.24	@WASHINGTON	44-10
0.31	USC	10-44
N.7	@STANFORD	35-28
N.14	Arizona State	54-20
N.21	@ARIZONA	55-45
D.3	Oregon State	65-38

Coach: *Chip Kelly*
Colors: *Emerald Green & Lemon Yellow*
Nickname: *Ducks* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

OREGON STATE
Corvallis, OR

S.5	Portland State	
S.12	@UNLV	
S.19	Cincinnati	
S.26	Arizona	19-17
0.3	@ARIZONA STATE	27-25
0.10	Stanford	28-36
0.24	@USC	27-21
0.31	UCLA	34-6
N.7	@CALIFORNIA	34-21
N.14	Washington	34-13
N.21	@WASHINGTON STATE	66-13
D.3	@OREGON	38-65

Coach: *Mike Riley* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Black*
Nickname: *Beavers* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

PENN STATE
University Park, PA

S.5	Akron	
S.12	Syracuse	55-13
S.19	Temple	45-3
S.26	Iowa	23-24
0.3	@ILLINOIS	38-24
0.10	Eastern Illinois	
0.17	Minnesota	
0.24	@MICHIGAN	46-17
0.31	@NORTHWESTERN	
N.7	Ohio State	13-6
N.14	Indiana	34-7
N.21	@MICHIGAN STATE	49-18

Coach: *Joe Paterno* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Nittany Lions* ***2008 Record:*** *11-1*

PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia, PA

S.19	Villanova	14-20 (OT)
S.26	@LAFAYETTE	17-24
0.3	@DARTMOUTH	23-10
0.10	Bucknell	
0.17	@COLUMBIA	15-10
0.24	Yale	9-7
0.31	@BROWN	27-34
N.7	Princeton	14-9
N.14	@HARVARD	21-24
N.21	Cornell	23-6

Coach: *Al Bagnoli* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Quakers* ***2008 Record:*** *6-4*

PITTSBURGH
Pittsburgh, PA

S.5	Youngstown State	
S.12	@BUFFALO	27-16
S.19	Navy	42-21
S.26	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	
0.2	@LOUISVILLE	41-7
0.10	Connecticut	34-10
0.16	@RUTGERS	34-54
0.24	South Florida	26-21
N.7	Syracuse	34-24
N.14	Notre Dame	36-33 (OT)
N.27	@WEST VIRGINIA	19-15
D.5	Cincinnati	21-28

Coach: *Dave Wannstedt* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Panthers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

PORTLAND STATE
Portland, OR

S.5	@OREGON STATE	
S.12	Southern Oregon	
S.19	@MONTANA	12-29
S.26	Weber State	21-31
0.3	Sacramento State	31-41
0.10	@NORTHERN COLORADO	24-21
0.17	Northern Arizona	17-37
0.24	UC-Davis	24-38
0.31	@EASTERN WASHINGTON*	47-36
N.7	Montana State	32-49
N.14	@IDAHO STATE	36-13

** At Seattle, WA*
Coach: *Jerry Glanville* ***Colors:*** *Green, White & Silver*
Nickname: *Vikings* ***2008 Record:*** *4-7*

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
Prairie View, TX

S.5	@TEXAS SOUTHERN*	34-14
S.12	@NEW MEXICO STATE	
0.3	Grambling State#	16-40
0.10	@ALABAMA STATE	27-6
0.17	Mississippi Valley State	49-15
0.22	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	24-23
N.7	Alabama A&M	24-10
N.14	@ALCORN STATE	37-3
N.21	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	15-0

** At Houston, TX*
 # At Dallas, TX
Coach: *Henry Frazier* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Panthers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-1*

PRESBYTERIAN
Clinton, SC

S.5	@FURMAN	
S.12	Elon	12-66
S.19	Chattanooga	
S.26	@CITADEL	
0.3	@STONY BROOK	
0.10	@OLD DOMINION	
0.24	Virginia Military	27-49
0.31	@LIBERTY	31-28
N.7	Charleston Southern	18-29
N.14	@COASTAL CAROLINA	13-21
N.21	Gardner-Webb	21-47

Coach: *Harold Nichols* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Blue*
Nickname: *Blue Hose* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

PRINCETON
Princeton, NJ

S.19	Citadel	24-37
S.26	@LEHIGH	10-7
0.3	Columbia	27-24
0.8	Colgate	24-27
0.17	@BROWN	10-31
0.24	@HARVARD	20-24
0.31	Cornell	31-26
N.7	@PENNSYLVANIA	9-14
N.14	Yale	0-14
N.21	@DARTMOUTH	28-10

Coach: *Roger Hughes* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Black*
Nickname: *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *4-6*

PURDUE
West Lafayette, IN

S.5	Toledo	
S.12	@OREGON	26-32 (OT)
S.19	Northern Illinois	
S.26	Notre Dame	21-38
0.3	Northwestern	26-48
0.10	@MINNESOTA	6-17
0.17	Ohio State	3-16
0.24	Illinois	
0.31	@WISCONSIN	
N.7	@MICHIGAN	48-42
N.14	Michigan State	7-21
N.21	@INDIANA	62-10

Coach: *Danny Hope* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Boilermakers* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

RHODE ISLAND
Kingston, RI

S.5	Fordham	0-16
S.19	@MASSACHUSETTS	0-49
S.26	@CONNECTICUT	
0.3	@BROWN	37-13
0.10	Towson	32-37
0.17	Hofstra	20-23
0.24	@VILLANOVA	7-44
0.31	William & Mary	24-34
N.7	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	43-51
N.14	@MAINE	7-37
N.21	Northeastern	29-14

Coach: *Joe Trainer*
Colors: *Keaney Blue, Dark Blue & White*
Nickname: *Rams* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

RICE
Houston, TX

S.5	@UAB	
S.12	@TEXAS TECH	
S.19	@OKLAHOMA STATE	
S.26	Vanderbilt	21-38
0.3	Tulsa	28-63
0.10	Navy	
0.17	@EAST CAROLINA	
0.24	UCF	
N.7	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	56-27
N.14	Tulane	42-17
N.21	UTEP	49-44
N.28	@HOUSTON	56-42

Coach: *David Bailiff* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Owls* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

RICHMOND
Richmond, VA

S.5	@DUKE	
S.12	@DELAWARE	31-14
S.19	Hofstra	34-14
S.26	Virginia Military	56-16
0.10	@JAMES MADISON	31-38
0.17	@MAINE	44-17
0.24	Massachusetts	30-15
0.31	@TOWSON	45-14
N.7	Villanova	20-26
N.14	@GEORGETOWN	48-0
N.21	William & Mary	23-20 (OT)

Coach: *Mike London* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Spiders* ***2008 Record:*** *13-3*

ROBERT MORRIS
Moon Township, PA

S.5	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	
S.12	@BUCKNELL	14-17
S.19	Dayton	14-31
S.26	Bryant	7-20
0.3	@DUQUESNE	34-27
0.10	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	27-14
0.17	St. Francis (PA)	35-20
0.31	Sacred Heart	28-31
N.7	@ALBANY	7-41
N.14	Wagner	35-3
N.21	@MONMOUTH	26-34

Coach: *Joe Walton* ***Colors:*** *Blue, White & Red*
Nickname: *Colonials* ***2008 Record:*** *5-6*

RUTGERS
Piscataway, NJ

S.7	Cincinnati	10-13
S.12	Howard	
S.19	Florida International	
S.26	@MARYLAND	
0.3	Texas Southern	
0.16	Pittsburgh	54-34
0.23	@ARMY	30-3
0.31	@CONNECTICUT	12-10
N.12	South Florida	49-16
N.21	@SYRACUSE	35-17
N.27	@LOUISVILLE	63-14
D.5	West Virginia	17-24

Coach: *Greg Schiano* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet*
Nickname: *Scarlet Knights* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

SACRAMENTO STATE
Sacramento, CA

S.5	@UNLV	
S.12	@CAL POLY	
S.26	Eastern Washington	15-13
0.3	@PORTLAND STATE	41-31
0.10	Idaho State	33-36 (OT)
0.17	@WEBER STATE	27-32
0.24	Montana	7-43
0.31	Northern Arizona	10-42
N.7	@NORTHERN COLORADO	45-25
N.14	@MONTANA STATE	20-31
N.21	UC-Davis	29-19

Coach: *Marshall Sperbeck* ***Colors:*** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Hornets* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

SACRED HEART
Fairfield, CT

S.5	Marist	28-16
S.12	@HOLY CROSS	
S.26	@ALBANY	21-26
0.3	@CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE	14-49
0.10	St. Francis (PA)	41-24
0.17	Monmouth	7-19
0.24	@WAGNER	42-20
0.31	@ROBERT MORRIS	31-28
N.7	Bryant	
N.14	Duquesne	29-17

Coach: *Paul Gorham* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Pioneers* ***2008 Record:*** *8-3*

SAM HOUSTON STATE
Huntsville, TX

S.3	Western Illinois	
S.12	North Dakota State	
S.26	@TULSA	
0.3	St. Joseph's (IN)	
0.10	Nicholls State	47-37
0.17	@SOUTHEASTERN LA	27-30 (OT)
0.24	@STEPHEN F. AUSTIN	34-31 (OT)
0.31	Northwestern State	16-24
N.7	@McNEESE STATE	17-28
N.14	Central Arkansas	46-48
N.21	@TEXAS STATE	45-48 (OT)

Coach: *Todd Whitten* ***Colors:*** *Orange & White*
Nickname: *Bearkats* ***2008 Record:*** *4-6*

SAMFORD
Birmingham, AL

S.5	@UCF	
S.12	Jacksonville	
S.19	Miles	
S.26	@APPALACHIAN STATE	24-35
0.3	Western Carolina	21-6
0.10	Chattanooga	30-7
0.17	@FURMAN	27-28
0.31	@CITADEL	28-10
N.7	Georgia Southern	27-17
N.14	@WOFFORD	7-28
N.21	Elon	17-23

Coach: *Pat Sullivan* ***Colors:*** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

SAN DIEGO
San Diego, CA

S.5	@AZUSA PACIFIC	38-10
S.12	@NORTHERN COLORADO	
S.19	Marist	40-22
0.3	@BUTLER	34-17
0.10	@VALPARAISO	42-14
0.17	Drake	43-17
0.24	Jacksonville	29-30
0.31	@DAYTON	22-30
N.7	Davidson	28-24
N.14	@MOREHEAD STATE	41-17
N.21	Southern Utah	

Coach: *Ron Caragher*
Colors: *Navy, Columbia Blue & White*
Nickname: *Toreros* ***2008 Record:*** *9-2*

SAN DIEGO STATE
San Diego, CA

S.5	@UCLA	
S.12	Southern Utah	
S.19	@IDAHO	45-17
S.26	@AIR FORCE	10-35
0.3	New Mexico State	
0.17	Brigham Young	12-41
0.24	@COLORADO STATE	34-38
0.31	New Mexico	7-70
N.7	TCU	7-41
N.14	Wyoming	10-35
N.21	@UTAH	14-63
N.28	@UNLV	42-21

Coach: *Brady Hoke* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Black*
Nickname: *Aztecs* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

SAN JOSE STATE
San Jose, CA

S.5	@USC	
S.12	Utah	
S.19	@STANFORD	10-23
S.26	Cal Poly	
0.10	Idaho	30-24
0.17	@FRESNO STATE	10-24
0.31	@BOISE STATE	16-33
N.8	Nevada	17-41
N.14	@UTAH STATE	30-7
N.21	Hawaii	20-17
N.28	New Mexico State	31-14
D.5	@LOUISIANA TECH	0-21

Coach: *Dick Tomey* ***Colors:*** *Gold, Blue & White*
Nickname: *Spartans* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

SAVANNAH STATE
Savannah, GA

S.5	@LIVINGSTONE*	45-10
S.12	Alabama State	
S.19	@McNEESE STATE	
S.26	@CONCORDIA COLLEGE	23-7
0.3	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	20-29
0.10	North Greenville	
0.17	Bethune-Cookman	9-34
0.24	Old Dominion	
0.31	Edward Waters	21-26
N.14	Webber International	24-7
N.21	@NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL	7-10

** At Greenville, SC*
Coach: *Robby Wells* ***Colors:*** *Reflex Blue & Burnt Orange* ***Nickname:*** *Tigers* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

SOUTH CAROLINA
Columbia, SC

S.3	@NORTH CAROLINA STATE	34-0
S.12	@GEORGIA	7-14
S.19	Florida Atlantic	
S.24	Ole Miss	31-24
0.3	South Carolina State	
0.10	Kentucky	24-17
0.17	@ALABAMA	
0.24	Vanderbilt	17-24
0.31	@TENNESSEE	27-6
N.7	@ARKANSAS	34-21
N.14	Florida	6-56
N.28	Clemson	14-31

Coach: *Steve Spurrier* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Black*
Nickname: *Gamecocks* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
Orangeburg, SC

S.6	@GRAMBLING STATE*	
S.12	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	28-19
S.26	Winston-Salem State	43-17
0.3	@SOUTH CAROLINA	
0.10	@NORFOLK STATE	24-23
0.17	Florida A&M	28-21
0.24	@HAMPTON	35-13
0.31	Delaware State	23-17
N.7	@HOWARD	56-0
N.14	Morgan State	32-0
N.21	North Carolina A&T	55-0

** At Orlando, FL*
Coach: *Buddy Pough* ***Colors:*** *Garnet & Blue*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *10-3*

SOUTH DAKOTA
Vermillion, SD

S.3	William Penn	
S.12	@NORTHERN IOWA	13-24
S.19	Drake	
S.26	Southeastern Louisiana	30-31
0.3	@NORTH DAKOTA	31-34 (OT)
0.10	UC-Davis	
0.17	@MONTANA STATE	18-37
0.31	@NORTHERN COLORADO	
N.7	Southern Utah	42-20
N.14	@CAL POLY	22-49

Coach: *Ed Meierkort* ***Colors:*** *Vermillion & White*
Nickname: *Coyotes* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
Brookings, SD

S.12	Georgia Southern	
S.19	Indiana State	49-9
S.26	@ILLINOIS STATE	52-21
0.3	@CAL POLY	28-42
0.10	@MISSOURI STATE	43-13
0.17	North Dakota State	25-24
0.24	Northern Iowa	20-34
0.31	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	40-7
N.7	Southern Illinois	35-38
N.14	@MINNESOTA	
N.21	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	24-22

Coach: *John Stiegelmeier* **Colors:** *Yellow & Blue*
Nickname: *Jackrabbits* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

SOUTH FLORIDA
Tampa, FL

S.5	Wofford	
S.12	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	
S.19	Charleston Southern	
S.26	@FLORIDA STATE	
0.3	@SYRACUSE	45-13
0.15	Cincinnati	10-24
0.24	@PITTSBURGH	21-26
0.30	West Virginia	7-13
N.12	@RUTGERS	16-49
N.21	Louisville	20-24
N.28	Miami (FL)	
D.5	@CONNECTICUT	17-13

Coach: *Jim Leavitt* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Bulls* **2008 Record:** *7-5*

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE
Cape Girardeau, MO

S.3	Quincy	
S.12	@CINCINNATI	
S.19	Eastern Illinois	21-24
S.26	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	21-31
0.3	@TENNESSEE STATE	27-20 (OT)
0.10	Austin Peay	33-30
0.24	@TENNESSEE TECH	27-29
0.31	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	16-29
N.7	Jacksonville State	17-38
N.14	Murray State	10-17
N.21	Southern Illinois	

Coach: *Tony Samuel* **Colors:** *Red, White & Black*
Nickname: *Redhawks* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA
Hammond, LA

S.5	Texas A&M-Commerce	
S.10	Union College	
S.19	@OLE MISS	
S.26	@SOUTH DAKOTA	31-30
0.10	@TEXAS STATE	24-38
0.17	Sam Houston State	30-27 (OT)
0.24	@McNEESE STATE	14-24
0.31	Central Arkansas	21-28
N.7	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	26-21
N.14	Stephen F. Austin	45-48
N.19	Nicholls State	28-35

Coach: *Mike Lucas* **Colors:** *Green & Gold*
Nickname: *Lions* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
Carbondale, IL

S.5	@MARSHALL	
S.19	Southwest Baptist	
S.26	North Dakota State	27-35
0.3	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	24-14
0.10	Illinois State	17-10 (OT)
0.17	@NORTHERN IOWA	27-24
0.24	Youngstown State	33-0
0.31	@INDIANA STATE	60-7
N.7	@SOUTH DAKOTA STATE	38-35
N.14	Missouri State	23-17
N.21	@SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE	

Coach: *Dale Lennon* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Salukis* **2008 Record:** *9-3*

SOUTHERN METHODIST
Dallas, TX

S.5	Stephen F. Austin	
S.12	@UAB	
S.19	@WASHINGTON STATE	
0.3	@TCU	7-48
0.10	East Carolina	
0.17	Navy	7-34
0.24	@HOUSTON	38-44
0.31	@TULSA	31-37
N.7	Rice	27-56
N.14	UTEP	10-36
N.21	@MARSHALL	
N.28	Tulane	27-34

Coach: *June Jones* **Colors:** *Red & Blue*
Nickname: *Mustangs* **2008 Record:** *1-11*

SOUTHERN MISS
Hattiesburg, MS

S.5	Alcorn State	
S.12	UCF	17-6
S.19	Virginia	
S.26	@KANSAS	
0.1	@UAB	70-14
0.10	@LOUISVILLE	
0.17	Memphis	30-36
0.24	Tulane	
0.31	@HOUSTON	
N.14	@MARSHALL	27-34
N.21	Tulsa	
N.28	@EAST CAROLINA	21-3

Coach: *Larry Fedora* **Colors:** *Black & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Eagles* **2008 Record:** *6-6*

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Baton Rouge, LA

S.5	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	
S.12	Central State	
S.19	Tennessee State	32-34
S.26	Alcorn State	15-12
0.3	Jackson State*	35-28
0.10	@TEXAS SOUTHERN	45-14
0.17	Fort Valley State	
0.22	Prairie View A&M	23-24
0.31	@ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	31-24 (OT)
N.14	Alabama State#	15-0
N.28	@GRAMBLING STATE$	14-29

** At Jackson, MS*
 # At Mobile, AL
$ At New Orleans, LA
Coach: *Pete Richardson*
Colors: *Columbia Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Jaguars* **2008 Record:** *6-5*

SOUTHERN UTAH
Cedar City, UT

S.3	Dixie State	
S.12	@SAN DIEGO STATE	
S.19	@NORTHERN ARIZONA	14-19
S.26	@UTAH STATE	
0.3	Texas State	34-20
0.17	@CAL POLY	41-69
0.24	North Dakota	15-14
0.31	UC-Davis	26-49
N.7	@SOUTH DAKOTA	20-42
N.14	Eastern Washington	
N.21	@SAN DIEGO	

Coach: *Ed Lamb* **Colors:** *Scarlet & White*
Nickname: *Thunderbirds* **2008 Record:** *4-7*

ST. FRANCIS (PA)
Loretto, PA

S.5	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	
S.12	Morehead State	21-36
S.19	@NORTHERN IOWA	
S.26	@WAGNER	13-17
0.3	Albany	3-27
0.10	@SACRED HEART	24-41
0.17	@ROBERT MORRIS	20-35
0.24	Duquesne	7-21
N.7	Monmouth	15-42
N.14	@BRYANT	0-23
N.21	Central Connecticut State	0-36

Coach: *Dave Opfar* **Colors:** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Red Flash* **2008 Record:** *0-11*

STANFORD
Stanford, CA

S.5	@WASHINGTON STATE	58-0
S.12	@WAKE FOREST	
S.19	San Jose State	23-10
S.26	Washington	35-28
0.3	UCLA	20-23
0.10	@OREGON STATE	36-28
0.17	@ARIZONA	24-23
0.24	Arizona State	17-41
N.7	Oregon	28-35
N.14	@USC	23-45
N.21	California	16-37
N.28	Notre Dame	21-28

Coach: *Jim Harbaugh* **Colors:** *Cardinal & White*
Nickname: *Cardinal* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
Nacogdoches, TX

S.5	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	
S.12	Texas College	
S.19	@WESTERN ILLINOIS	14-34
S.26	North Dakota	
0.10	McNeese State	31-42
0.17	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	41-49
0.24	Sam Houston State	31-34 (OT)
0.31	@TEXAS STATE	21-62
N.7	Nicholls State	50-39
N.14	@SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	48-45
N.21	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	24-34

Coach: *J.C. Harper* **Colors:** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Lumberjacks* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

STONY BROOK
Stony Brook, NY

S.5	@HOFSTRA	3-43
S.12	@COLGATE	42-26
S.19	Brown	7-17
S.26	@MASSACHUSETTS	
0.3	Presbyterian	
0.10	@NORTH DAKOTA	
0.17	@VIRGINIA MILITARY	40-26
0.24	Coastal Carolina	28-24
0.31	@GARDNER-WEBB	33-34
N.14	@CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	20-19
N.21	Liberty	0-33

Coach: *Chuck Priore* **Colors:** *Red, Blue & Gray*
Nickname: *Seawolves* **2008 Record:** *5-6*

SYRACUSE
Syracuse, NY

S.5	Minnesota	
S.12	@PENN STATE	13-55
S.19	Northwestern	10-30
S.26	Maine	
0.3	South Florida	13-45
0.10	West Virginia	6-17
0.24	Akron	28-42
0.31	Cincinnati	10-30
N.7	@PITTSBURGH	24-34
N.14	@LOUISVILLE	28-21
N.21	Rutgers	17-35
N.28	@CONNECTICUT	14-39

Coach: *Doug Marrone* **Colors:** *Orange*
Nickname: *Orange* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

TCU
Fort Worth, TX

S.12	@VIRGINIA	
S.19	Texas State	
S.26	@CLEMSON	
0.3	Southern Methodist	48-7
0.10	@AIR FORCE	44-10
0.17	Colorado State	13-7
0.24	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	32-7
0.31	UNLV	44-14
N.7	@SAN DIEGO STATE	41-7
N.14	Utah	10-13
N.21	@WYOMING	54-7
N.28	New Mexico	26-3

Coach: *Gary Patterson* **Colors:** *Purple & White*
Nickname: *Horned Frogs* **2008 Record:** *10-2*

TEMPLE
Philadelphia, PA

S.3	Villanova	
S.19	@PENN STATE	3-45
S.26	Buffalo	28-30
0.3	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	55-52
0.10	Ball State	
0.17	Army	35-7
0.24	@TOLEDO	
0.31	@NAVY	27-33 (OT)
N.5	Miami (OH)	28-10
N.13	@AKRON	27-6
N.21	Kent State	38-41
N.27	@OHIO	14-10

Coach: *Al Golden* **Colors:** *Cherry & White*
Nickname: *Owls* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

TENNESSEE
Knoxville, TN

S.5	Western Kentucky	
S.12	UCLA	24-27 (OT)
S.19	@FLORIDA	6-30
S.26	Ohio	
0.3	Auburn	12-14
0.10	Georgia	14-26
0.24	@ALABAMA	9-29
0.31	South Carolina	6-27
N.7	Memphis	
N.14	@OLE MISS	
N.21	Vanderbilt	20-10
N.28	@KENTUCKY	28-10

Coach: *Lane Kiffin* **Colors:** *Orange & White*
Nickname: *Volunteers* **2008 Record:** *5-7*

TENNESSEE STATE
Nashville, TN

S.5	Alabama A&M	34-13
S.12	@JACKSON STATE*	41-18
S.19	@SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	34-32
S.26	Florida A&M#	21-28
0.3	Southeast Missouri State	20-27 (OT)
0.10	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	34-20
0.17	Murray State	17-24
0.31	@TENNESSEE TECH	41-14
N.7	Tennessee Martin	30-27 (OT)
N.14	@AUSTIN PEAY	37-34
N.21	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	45-24

** At Memphis, TN*
 # At Atlanta, GA
Coach: *James Webster* **Colors:** *Royal Blue, White*
Nickname: *Tigers* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

TENNESSEE TECH
Cookeville, TN

S.10	Pikeville College	
S.19	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	12-33
S.26	@KANSAS STATE	
0.3	Austin Peay	28-31
0.10	@TENNESSEE-MARTIN	7-35
0.17	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	20-38
0.24	Southeast Missouri State	29-27
0.31	Tennessee State	14-41
N.7	@GEORGIA	
N.14	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	17-41
N.21	Murray State	21-51

Coach: *Watson Brown* **Colors:** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Eagles* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

TENNESSEE-MARTIN
Martin, TN

S.3	Iowa Wesleyan	
S.12	@MISSOURI STATE	
S.19	@MEMPHIS	
S.26	Southeast Missouri State	31-21
0.3	@JACKSONVILLE STATE	31-30
0.10	Tennessee Tech	35-7
0.17	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	31-33
0.24	Murray State	63-38
N.7	@TENNESSEE STATE	27-30 (OT)
N.14	@EASTERN ILLINOIS	29-26
N.21	Austin Peay	31-17

Coach: *Jason Simpson* **Colors:** *Navy Blue & Orange*
Nickname: *Skyhawks* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

TEXAS
Austin, TX

S.5	Louisiana-Monroe	
S.12	@WYOMING	
S.19	Texas Tech	33-39
S.26	UTEP	42-13
0.10	Colorado	38-14
0.17	Oklahoma*	45-35
0.24	@MISSOURI	56-31
0.31	@OKLAHOMA STATE	28-24
N.7	UCF	
N.14	@BAYLOR	45-21
N.21	Kansas	35-7
N.26	@TEXAS A&M	49-9

** At Dallas, TX*
Coach: *Mack Brown*
Colors: *White & Burnt Orange*
Nickname: *Longhorns* **2008 Record:** *11-1*

TEXAS A&M
College Station, TX

S.5	New Mexico	28-22
S.19	Utah State	
S.26	UAB	
0.3	Arkansas*	
0.10	Oklahoma State	28-56
0.17	@KANSAS STATE	30-44
0.24	@TEXAS TECH	25-43
0.31	Iowa State	49-35
N.7	@COLORADO	24-17
N.14	@OKLAHOMA	28-66
N.21	Baylor	21-41
N.26	Texas	9-49

** At Arlington, TX*
Coach: *Mike Sherman* **Colors:** *Maroon & White*
Nickname: *Aggies* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

TEXAS SOUTHERN
Houston, TX

S.5	Prairie View A&M*	14-34
S.12	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	
S.26	@TEXAS STATE	39-63
0.3	@RUTGERS	
0.10	Southern University	14-45
0.17	@JACKSON STATE	14-30
0.31	Alcorn State	30-29
N.7	@MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE	44-58
N.12	@GRAMBLING STATE	7-33
N.28	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	7-28

** At Houston, TX*
Coach: *Johnnie Cole* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gray*
Nickname: *Tigers* **2008 Record:** *4-8*

TEXAS STATE
San Marcos, TX

S.5	Angelo State	21-14
S.19	@TCU	
S.26	Texas Southern	63-39
0.3	@SOUTHERN UTAH	20-34
0.10	Southeastern Louisiana	38-24
0.17	@NICHOLLS STATE	34-10
0.24	@NORTHWESTERN STATE	31-34 (OT)
0.31	Stephen F. Austin	62-21
N.7	@CENTRAL ARKANSAS	24-31
N.14	McNeese State	45-42
N.21	Sam Houston State	48-45 (OT)

Coach: *Brad Wright* **Colors:** *Maroon & Gold*
Nickname: *Bobcats* **2008 Record:** *8-5*

TEXAS TECH
Lubbock, TX

S.5	North Dakota	
S.12	Rice	
S.19	@TEXAS	39-33
S.26	@HOUSTON	
0.3	New Mexico	
0.10	Kansas State	58-28
0.17	@NEBRASKA	37-31 (OT)
0.24	Texas A&M	43-25
0.31	Kansas	63-21
N.14	@OKLAHOMA STATE	56-20
N.21	Oklahoma	21-65
N.28	@BAYLOR*	35-28

** At Arlington, TX*
Coach: *Mike Leach* **Colors:** *Scarlet & Black*
Nickname: *Red Raiders* **2008 Record:** *11-1*

TOLEDO
Toledo, OH

S.5	@PURDUE	
S.11	Colorado	
S.19	Ohio State*	
S.26	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	16-35
0.3	@BALL STATE	0-31
0.10	Western Michigan	17-27
0.17	Northern Illinois	7-38
0.24	Temple	
0.31	@MIAMI (OH)	42-14
N.11	@CENTRAL MICHIGAN	23-24
N.20	Eastern Michigan	41-17
N.27	@BOWLING GREEN	10-38

** At Cleveland, OH*
Coach: *Tim Beckman*
Colors: *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Rockets* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

TOWSON
Towson, MD

S.5	@NORTHWESTERN	
S.19	Coastal Carolina	3-31
S.26	@MORGAN STATE	21-16
0.3	New Hampshire	14-42
0.10	@RHODE ISLAND	37-32
0.17	Delaware	21-31
0.24	@NORTHEASTERN	17-35
0.31	Richmond	14-45
N.7	@WILLIAM & MARY	14-34
N.14	Villanova	31-34
N.21	@JAMES MADISON	27-58

Coach: *Rob Ambrose* **Colors:** *White, Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Tigers* **2008 Record:** *3-9*

TROY
Troy, AL

S.3	@BOWLING GREEN	
S.12	@FLORIDA	
S.19	UAB	
S.26	@ARKANSAS STATE	35-9
0.6	Middle Tennessee	31-17
0.17	@FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL	33-23
0.24	North Texas	45-17
0.31	Louisiana-Monroe	30-31
N.7	@WESTERN KENTUCKY	17-7
N.14	@ARKANSAS	
N.21	Florida Atlantic	30-17
N.28	@LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	48-3

Coach: *Larry Blakeney*
Colors: *Cardinal, Silver & Black*
Nickname: *Trojans* **2008 Record:** *8-4*

TULANE
New Orleans, LA

S.4	Tulsa	7-56
S.12	Brigham Young	
S.26	McNeese State	
0.3	@ARMY	13-44
0.10	Marshall	
0.17	Houston	14-42
0.24	@SOUTHERN MISS	
0.31	@LSU	10-35
N.7	UTEP	21-24
N.14	@RICE	17-42
N.21	@UCF	
N.28	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	34-27

Coach: *Bob Toledo* **Colors:** *Olive Green & Sky Blue*
Nickname: *Green Wave* **2008 Record:** *2-10*

TULSA
Tulsa, OK

S.4	@TULANE	56-7
S.12	@NEW MEXICO	56-14
S.19	@OKLAHOMA	
S.26	Sam Houston State	
0.3	@RICE	63-28
0.14	Boise State	
0.21	@UTEP	77-35
0.31	Southern Methodist	37-31
N.7	Houston	30-70
N.15	East Carolina	24-27
N.21	@SOUTHERN MISS	
N.28	Memphis	

Coach: *Todd Graham*
Colors: *Crimson, Royal Blue & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Golden Hurricane*
2008 Record: *10-3*

UAB
Birmingham, AL

S.5	Rice	
S.12	Southern Methodist	

S.19	@TROY	
S.26	@TEXAS A&M	
O.1	Southern Miss	14-70
O.17	@OLE MISS	
O.24	@MARSHALL	23-21
O.31	@UTEP	
N.7	Florida Atlantic	34-49
N.14	@MEMPHIS	30-33
N.21	@EAST CAROLINA	13-17
N.28	UCF	15-0

Coach: *Neil Callaway*
Colors: *Forest Green & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Blazers* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

UCF
Orlando, FL

S.5	Samford	
S.12	@SOUTHERN MISS	6-17
S.19	Buffalo	
S.26	@EAST CAROLINA	10-13 (OT)
O.3	Memphis	28-21
O.17	Miami (FL)	14-20
O.24	@RICE	
N.1	Marshall	30-14
N.7	@TEXAS	
N.14	Houston	
N.21	Tulane	
N.28	@UAB	0-15

Coach: *George O'Leary* ***Colors:*** *Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Knights* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

UCLA
Los Angeles, CA

S.5	San Diego State	
S.12	@TENNESSEE	27-24 (OT)
S.19	Kansas State	
O.3	@STANFORD	23-20
O.10	Oregon	24-31
O.17	California	20-41
O.24	@ARIZONA	10-31
O.31	@OREGON STATE	6-34
N.7	Washington	27-7
N.14	@WASHINGTON STATE	28-3
N.21	Arizona State	9-34
N.28	@USC	7-28

Coach: *Rick Neuheisel* ***Colors:*** *Blue & Gold*
Nickname: *Bruins* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

UNLV
Las Vegas, NV

S.5	Sacramento State	
S.12	Oregon State	
S.19	Hawaii	
S.26	@WYOMING	22-14
O.3	@NEVADA	27-49
O.10	Brigham Young	35-42
O.17	Utah	21-42
O.24	@NEW MEXICO	27-20
O.31	@TCU	14-44
N.7	Colorado State	28-41
N.14	@AIR FORCE	28-29
N.28	San Diego State	21-42

Coach: *Mike Sanford* ***Colors:*** *Scarlet & Gray*
Nickname: *Rebels* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

USC
Los Angeles, CA

S.5	San Jose State	
S.12	@OHIO STATE	35-3
S.19	@WASHINGTON	56-0
S.26	Washington State	69-0
O.3	@CALIFORNIA	17-3
O.17	@NOTRE DAME	38-3
O.24	Oregon State	21-27
O.31	@OREGON	44-10
N.7	@ARIZONA STATE	28-0
N.14	Stanford	45-23
N.28	UCLA	28-7
D.5	Arizona	17-10

Coach: *Pete Carroll* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & Gold*
Nickname: *Trojans* ***2008 Record:*** *11-1*

UTAH
Salt Lake City, UT

S.3	Utah State	58-10
S.12	@SAN JOSE STATE	
S.19	@OREGON	
S.26	Louisville	
O.10	@COLORADO STATE	49-16
O.17	@UNLV	42-21
O.24	Air Force	30-23
O.31	Wyoming	40-7
N.7	New Mexico	13-10
N.14	@TCU	13-10
N.21	San Diego State	63-14
N.28	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	48-24

Coach: *Kyle Whittingham*
Colors: *Crimson & White*
Nickname: *Utes* ***2008 Record:*** *12-0*

UTAH STATE
Logan, UT

S.3	@UTAH	10-58
S.19	@TEXAS A&M	
S.26	Southern Utah	
O.2	@BRIGHAM YOUNG	14-34
O.10	@NEW MEXICO STATE	47-2
O.17	Nevada	17-44
O.24	Louisiana Tech	38-45
O.31	@FRESNO STATE	28-30
N.7	@HAWAII	30-14
N.14	San Jose State	7-30
N.20	Boise State	14-49
N.28	@IDAHO	42-17

Coach: *Gary Andersen* ***Colors:*** *Navy Blue & White*
Nickname: *Aggies* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

UTEP
El Paso, TX

S.5	Buffalo	17-42
S.12	Kansas	
S.19	@NEW MEXICO STATE	33-34
S.26	@TEXAS	13-42
O.3	Houston	37-42
O.10	@MEMPHIS	
O.21	Tulsa	35-77
O.31	UAB	
N.7	@TULANE	24-21
N.14	@SOUTHERN METHODIST	36-10
N.21	@RICE	44-49
N.28	Marshall	

Coach: *Mike Price*
Colors: *Dark Blue, Orange & Silver*
Nickname: *Miners* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

VALPARAISO
Valparaiso, IN

S.5	St. Joseph's (IN)	
S.12	@CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY (WI)	34-10
S.26	Carthage	
O.3	@DRAKE	0-32
O.10	San Diego	14-42
O.17	@BUTLER	21-48
O.24	Dayton	7-43
O.31	@MARIST	
N.7	@JACKSONVILLE	24-40
N.14	Campbell	47-14
N.21	Morehead State	10-44

Coach: *Stacy Adams* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold*
Nickname: *Crusaders* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

VANDERBILT
Nashville, TN

S.5	Western Carolina	
S.12	@LSU	
S.19	Mississippi State	14-17
S.26	@RICE	38-21
O.3	Ole Miss	23-17
O.10	@ARMY	
O.17	Georgia	14-24
O.24	@SOUTH CAROLINA	24-17
O.31	Georgia Tech	
N.7	@FLORIDA	14-42
N.14	Kentucky	31-24
N.21	@TENNESSEE	10-20

Coach: *Bobby Johnson* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Commodores* ***2008 Record:*** *6-6*

VILLANOVA
Villanova, PA

S.3	@TEMPLE	
S.12	Lehigh	33-14
S.19	@PENNSYLVANIA	20-14 (OT)
S.26	Northeastern	20-14
O.3	William & Mary	38-28
O.10	@NEW HAMPSHIRE	24-13
O.17	@JAMES MADISON	27-31
O.24	Rhode Island	44-7
N.7	@RICHMOND	26-20
N.14	@TOWSON	34-31
N.21	Delaware	21-7

Coach: *Andy Talley* ***Colors:*** *Blue & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *10-3*

VIRGINIA
Charlottesville, VA

S.5	William & Mary	
S.12	TCU	
S.19	@SOUTHERN MISS	
O.3	@NORTH CAROLINA	16-13 (OT)
O.10	Indiana	
O.17	@MARYLAND	31-0
O.24	Georgia Tech	24-17
O.31	Duke	3-31
N.7	@MIAMI (FL)	17-24 (OT)
N.14	Boston College	
N.21	@CLEMSON	3-13
N.28	Virginia Tech	14-17

Coach: *Al Groh* ***Colors:*** *Orange & Blue*
Nickname: *Cavaliers* ***2008 Record:*** *5-7*

VIRGINIA MILITARY
Lexington, VA

S.5	Robert Morris	
S.19	@JAMES MADISON	
S.26	@RICHMOND	16-56
O.3	Gardner-Webb	27-34
O.10	@COASTAL CAROLINA	47-20
O.17	Stony Brook	26-40
O.24	@PRESBYTERIAN	49-27
O.31	Charleston Southern	21-31
N.7	@LIBERTY	26-38
N.14	@ARMY	
N.21	Old Dominion	

Coach: *Sparky Woods*
Colors: *Red, White & Yellow*
Nickname: *Keydets* ***2008 Record:*** *4-7*

VIRGINIA TECH
Blacksburg, VA

S.5	Alabama*	
S.12	Marshall	
S.19	Nebraska	35-30
S.26	Miami (FL)	14-16
O.3	@DUKE	14-3
O.10	Boston College	30-12
O.17	@GEORGIA TECH	20-17
O.29	North Carolina	20-17
N.5	@EAST CAROLINA	22-27
N.14	@MARYLAND	23-13
N.21	North Carolina State	
N.28	@VIRGINIA	17-14

** At Atlanta, GA*

Coach: *Frank Beamer*
Colors: *Burnt Orange & Chicago Maroon*
Nickname: *Hokies* ***2008 Record:*** *9-4*

WAGNER
Staten Island, NY

S.5	Stonehill	13-14
S.10	SUNY Maritime	
S.19	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	
S.26	St. Francis (PA)	17-13
O.3	@BRYANT	14-24
O.10	@MONMOUTH	17-31
O.24	Sacred Heart	20-42
O.31	@DUQUESNE	0-14
N.7	Central Connecticut State	10-35
N.14	@ROBERT MORRIS	3-35
N.21	Albany	11-30

Coach: *Walt Hameline* ***Colors:*** *Green & White*
Nickname: *Seahawks* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

WAKE FOREST
Winston-Salem, NC

S.5	Baylor	41-13
S.12	Stanford	
S.19	Elon	
S.26	@BOSTON COLLEGE	21-24
O.3	North Carolina State	17-21
O.10	Maryland	0-26
O.17	@CLEMSON	12-7
O.24	@NAVY	17-24
O.31	Miami (FL)	10-16
N.7	@GEORGIA TECH	
N.14	Florida State	12-3
N.28	@DUKE	33-30 (OT)

Coach: *Jim Grobe* ***Colors:*** *Black & Old Gold*
Nickname: *Demon Deacons* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

WASHINGTON
Seattle, WA

S.5	LSU	
S.12	Idaho	
S.19	USC	0-56
S.26	@STANFORD	28-35
O.3	@NOTRE DAME	7-33
O.10	Arizona	14-48
O.17	@ARIZONA STATE	19-39
O.24	Oregon	10-44
N.7	@UCLA	7-27
N.14	@OREGON STATE	13-34
N.28	Washington State	13-16 (OT)
D.5	California	7-48

Coach: *Steve Sarkisian* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Huskies* ***2008 Record:*** *0-12*

WASHINGTON STATE
Pullman, WA

S.5	Stanford	0-58
S.12	Hawaii*	10-24
S.19	Southern Methodist	
S.26	@USC	0-69
O.3	@OREGON	14-63
O.10	Arizona State	0-31
O.24	@CALIFORNIA	3-66
O.31	Notre Dame#	
N.7	@ARIZONA	28-59
N.14	UCLA	3-28
N.21	Oregon State	13-66
N.28	@WASHINGTON	16-13 (OT)

** At Seattle, WA*
 # At San Antonio, TX

Coach: *Paul Wulff* ***Colors:*** *Crimson & Gray*
Nickname: *Cougars* ***2008 Record:*** *2-11*

WEBER STATE
Ogden, UT

S.5	@WYOMING	
S.12	@COLORADO STATE	
S.19	Idaho State	59-27
S.26	@PORTLAND STATE	31-21
O.3	Montana State	35-12
O.10	@EASTERN WASHINGTON	26-33
O.17	Sacramento State	32-27
O.24	@NORTHERN COLORADO	17-10
O.31	@MONTANA	13-24
N.14	Northern Arizona	42-14
N.21	Cal Poly	49-35

Coach: *Ron McBride*
Colors: *Royal Purple & White*
Nickname: *Wildcats* ***2008 Record:*** *10-4*

WEST VIRGINIA
Morgantown, WV

S.5	Liberty	
S.12	East Carolina	3-24
S.19	@AUBURN	34-17
O.1	Colorado	14-17 (OT)
O.10	@SYRACUSE	17-6
O.17	Marshall	27-3
O.24	Connecticut	35-13
O.30	@SOUTH FLORIDA	13-7
N.7	Louisville	35-21
N.13	@CINCINNATI	23-26 (OT)
N.27	Pittsburgh	15-19
D.5	@RUTGERS	24-17

Coach: *Bill Stewart* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Blue*
Nickname: *Mountaineers* ***2008 Record:*** *8-4*

WESTERN CAROLINA
Cullowhee, NC

S.5	@VANDERBILT	
S.12	Gardner-Webb	
S.19	@GEORGIA SOUTHERN	31-38 (OT)
S.26	Furman	21-28
O.3	@SAMFORD	6-21
O.17	Citadel	14-34
O.24	Wofford	14-42
O.31	@CHATTANOOGA	27-7
N.7	Elon	14-33
N.14	@EASTERN KENTUCKY	
N.21	@APPALACHIAN STATE	10-35

Coach: *Dennis Wagner* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Catamounts* ***2008 Record:*** *3-9*

WESTERN ILLINOIS
Macomb, IL

S.3	@SAM HOUSTON STATE	
S.12	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	
S.19	Stephen F. Austin	34-14
O.3	Southern Illinois	14-24
O.10	@YOUNGSTOWN STATE	28-31
O.17	Missouri State	33-21
O.24	@INDIANA STATE	56-0
O.31	North Dakota State	27-22
N.7	@ILLINOIS STATE	48-45 (OT)
N.14	@NORTHERN IOWA	6-30
N.21	South Dakota State	22-24

Coach: *Don Patterson* ***Colors:*** *Purple & Gold*
Nickname: *Leathernecks* ***2008 Record:*** *6-5*

WESTERN KENTUCKY
Bowling Green, KY

S.5	@TENNESSEE	
S.12	South Florida	
S.19	Central Arkansas	
S.26	@NAVY	
O.10	Florida International	3-27
O.17	Louisiana-Lafayette	
O.24	@MIDDLE TENNESSEE	10-21
O.31	@NORTH TEXAS	40-51
N.7	Troy	7-17
N.14	@LOUISIANA-MONROE	
N.28	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	20-24
D.3	Arkansas State	

Coach: *David Elson* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Hilltoppers* ***2008 Record:*** *2-10*

WESTERN MICHIGAN
Kalamazoo, MI

S.5	@MICHIGAN	
S.12	@INDIANA	
S.19	Miami (OH)	
S.26	Hofstra	
O.3	@NORTHERN ILLINOIS	29-26
O.10	@TOLEDO	27-17
O.17	Central Michigan	28-38
O.24	Buffalo	34-28 (OT)
O.31	@KENT STATE	
N.7	@MICHIGAN STATE	
N.14	@EASTERN MICHIGAN	31-10
N.24	Ball State	22-45

Coach: *Bill Cubit* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold*
Nickname: *Broncos* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

WILLIAM & MARY
Williamsburg, VA

S.5	@VIRGINIA	
S.12	Central Connecticut State	
S.19	@NORFOLK STATE	42-12
S.26	Delaware	27-3
O.3	@VILLANOVA	28-38
O.10	@NORTHEASTERN	38-17
O.24	James Madison	24-48
O.31	@RHODE ISLAND	34-24
N.7	Towson	34-14
N.14	New Hampshire	38-34
N.21	@RICHMOND	20-23 (OT)

Coach: *Jimmye Laycock* ***Colors:*** *Green, Gold & Silver*
Nickname: *Tribe* ***2008 Record:*** *7-4*

WINSTON-SALEM STATE
Winston-Salem, NC

S.5	North Carolina A&T	8-14
S.12	Florida A&M	0-23
S.19	@MORGAN STATE*	7-21
S.26	@SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	17-43
O.3	@HOWARD	34-10
O.17	@UC-DAVIS	
O.24	@BETHUNE-COOKMAN	6-27
O.31	Hampton	35-30
N.7	Delaware State	27-26
N.14	North Carolina Central	16-23
N.21	@NORFOLK STATE	14-17

** At East Rutherford, NY*

Coach: *Kermit Blount* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Rams* ***2008 Record:*** *3-8*

WISCONSIN
Madison, WI

S.5	Northern Illinois	
S.12	Fresno State	13-10
S.19	Wofford	
S.26	Michigan State	24-25
O.3	@MINNESOTA	35-32
O.10	@OHIO STATE	17-20
O.17	Iowa	16-38
O.31	Purdue	
N.7	@INDIANA	55-20
N.14	Michigan	25-27
N.21	@NORTHWESTERN	
D.5	@HAWAII	

Coach: *Bret Bielema* ***Colors:*** *Cardinal & White*
Nickname: *Badgers* ***2008 Record:*** *7-5*

WOFFORD
Spartanburg, SC

S.5	@SOUTH FLORIDA	
S.12	Charleston Southern	41-23
S.19	@WISCONSIN	
S.26	@CHATTANOOGA	56-7
O.3	Georgia Southern	38-37 (OT)
O.17	Appalachian State	24-70
O.24	@WESTERN CAROLINA	42-14
O.31	Elon	55-20
N.7	@CITADEL	33-28
N.14	Samford	28-7
N.21	@FURMAN	35-10

Coach: *Mike Ayers* ***Colors:*** *Old Gold & Black*
Nickname: *Terriers* ***2008 Record:*** *9-3*

WYOMING
Laramie, WY

S.5	Weber State	
S.12	Texas	
S.19	@COLORADO	
S.26	UNLV	14-22
O.3	@FLORIDA ATLANTIC	
O.10	New Mexico	0-24
O.17	@AIR FORCE	3-23
O.31	@UTAH	7-40
N.7	Brigham Young	0-44
N.14	@SAN DIEGO STATE	35-10
N.21	TCU	7-54
N.27	@COLORADO STATE	20-31

Coach: *Dave Christensen* ***Colors:*** *Brown & Gold*
Nickname: *Cowboys* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

YALE
New Haven, CT

S.19	@GEORGETOWN	47-7
S.26	Cornell	14-17
O.3	Lafayette	
O.10	Dartmouth	34-7
O.17	@LEHIGH	
O.24	@PENNSYLVANIA	7-9
O.31	@COLUMBIA	27-12
N.7	Brown	13-3
N.14	@PRINCETON	14-0
N.21	Harvard	0-10

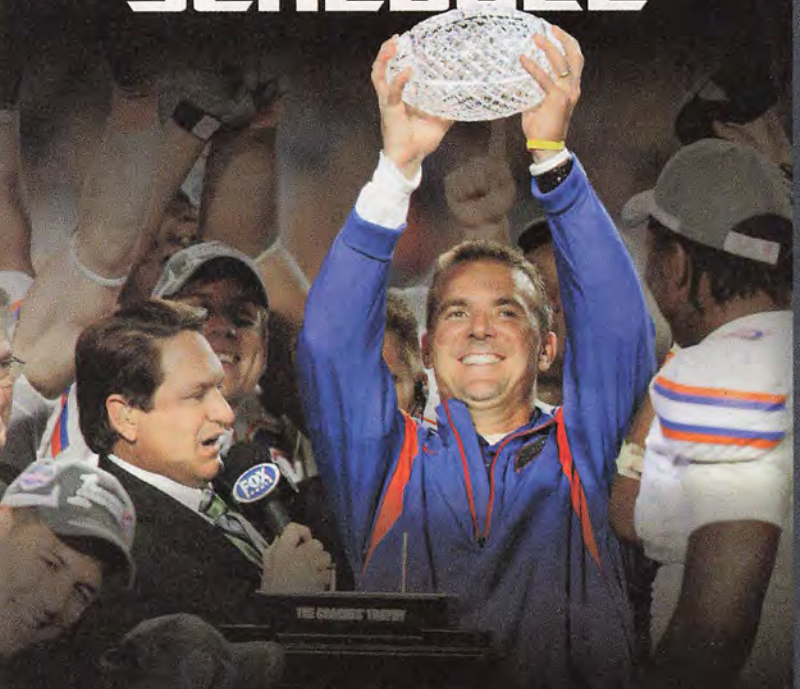
Coach: *Tom Williams* ***Colors:*** *Yale Blue & White*
Nickname: *Bulldogs* ***2008 Record:*** *6-4*

YOUNGSTOWN STATE
Youngstown, OH

S.5	@PITTSBURGH	
S.12	Austin Peay	
S.19	@NORTHEASTERN	
S.26	@INDIANA STATE	35-21
O.3	Missouri State	28-42
O.10	Western Illinois	31-28
O.24	@SOUTHERN ILLINOIS	0-33
O.31	South Dakota State	7-40
N.7	@NORTHERN IOWA	20-21
N.14	Illinois State	44-54
N.21	@NORTH DAKOTA STATE	32-24

Coach: *Jon Heacock* ***Colors:*** *Red & White*
Nickname: *Penguins* ***2008 Record:*** *4-8*

2009-10 BOWL SCHEDULE



BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Jan. 7 (Pasadena, Calif)
#1 BCS vs. #2 BCS
8 p.m. on FOX

ROSE BOWL

Jan. 1 (Pasadena, Calif.)
BCS vs. BCS
5:10 p.m. on ABC

SUGAR BOWL

Jan. 1 (New Orleans)
BCS vs. BCS
8 p.m. on FOX

FIESTA BOWL

Jan. 4 (Glendale, Ariz.)
BCS vs. BCS
8 p.m. on FOX

ORANGE BOWL

Jan. 5 (Miami, Fla.)
BCS vs. BCS
8 p.m. on FOX

New Mexico Bowl
Dec. 19 (Albuquerque, N.M.)
MWC vs. MAC
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

St. Petersburg Bowl
Dec. 19 (St. Petersburg, Fla.)
Big East vs. C-USA
8 p.m. on ESPN

New Orleans Bowl
Dec. 20 (New Orleans, La.)
Sun Belt vs. C-USA
8:15 p.m. on ESPN

MAACO Bowl Las Vegas
Dec. 22 (Las Vegas)
MWC vs. Pac-10
8 p.m. on ESPN

Poinsettia Bowl
Dec. 23 (San Diego)
MWC vs. Pac-10
8 p.m. on ESPN

Sheraton Hawaii Bowl
Dec. 24 (Honolulu)
WAC vs. Pac-10
8 p.m. on ESPN

Motor City Bowl
Dec. 26 (Detroit)
MAC vs. Big 10
1 p.m. on ESPN

Meineke Car Care Bowl
Dec. 26 (Charlotte, N.C.)
ACC vs. Big East
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

Emerald Bowl
Dec. 26 (San Francisco)
Pac-10 vs. ACC
8 p.m. on ESPN

Music City Bowl
Dec. 27 (Nashville, Tenn.)
ACC vs. SEC
8:15 p.m. on ESPN

Independence Bowl
Dec. 28 (Shreveport, La.)
Big 12 vs. SEC
5 p.m. on ESPN

EagleBank Bowl
Dec. 29 (Washington, D.C.)
ACC vs. Army or C-USA
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

Champs Sports Bowl
Dec. 29 (Orlando, Fla.)
ACC vs. Big Ten
8 p.m. on ESPN

Humanitarian Bowl
Dec. 30 (Boise, Idaho)
WAC vs. MWC
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

Holiday Bowl
Dec. 30 (San Diego)
Pac-10 vs. Big 12
8:30 p.m. on ESPN

Texas Bowl
Dec. 30 (Houston)
Big 12 vs. Navy or C-USA
TBA

Bell Helicopter Armed Forces Bowl
Dec. 31 (Fort Worth, Texas)
MWC vs. C-USA
TBA on ESPN

Sun Bowl
Dec. 31 (El Paso, Texas)
Pac-10 vs. Big East/Big 12/Notre Dame
2 p.m. on CBS

Insight Bowl
Dec. 31 (Tempe, Ariz.)
Big 10 vs. Big 12
6 p.m. on NFL Network

Chick-fil-a Bowl
Dec. 31 (Atlanta)
ACC vs. SEC
7:30 p.m. on ESPN

Outback Bowl
Jan. 1 (Tampa, Fla.)
SEC vs. Big 10
11 a.m. on ESPN

Gator Bowl
Jan. 1 (Jacksonville, Fla.)
ACC vs. Big 12/Big East/Notre Dame
1 p.m. on CBS

Capital One Bowl
Jan. 1 (Orlando, Fla.)
SEC vs. Big 10
1 p.m. on ABC

International Bowl
Jan. 2 (Toronto)
Big East/Notre Dame vs. MAC
Noon on ESPN

Cotton Bowl
Jan. 2 (Arlington, Texas)
Big 12 vs. SEC
2 p.m. on ESPN

Papajohns.com Bowl
Jan. 2 (Birmingham, Ala.)
Big East vs. SEC
2 p.m. on ESPN

Liberty Bowl
Jan. 2 (Memphis, Tenn.)
SEC vs. C-USA
4:30 p.m. on ESPN

Alamo Bowl
Jan. 2 (San Antonio)
Big 12 vs. Big 10
9 p.m. on ESPN

GMAC Bowl
Jan. 6 (Mobile, Ala.)
C-USA vs. MAC
6 p.m. on ESPN

All times Eastern

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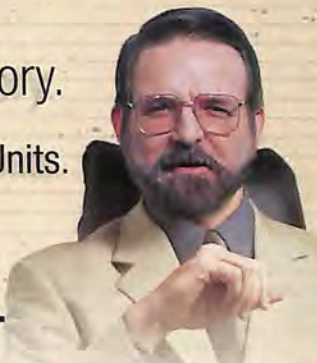
FACT: In 2008, Kelso Sturgeon's Personal Best Club delivered the **greatest football season** in history.

FACT: **50 Wins,** 14 Losses, 3 Pushes in 67 Games Rated 50 to 200 Units.

FACT: **78%** Certified, Documented Winning Percentage.

FACT: **$218,475 WON** by $100 per Unit Players including Parlays.



What's going on? How did all this come about? I'm Kelso Sturgeon. They call me the *"Dean of Las Vegas Handicappers."* I have the best numbers in football. I should. I'm a former SEC scout and sat at the feet of the legendary Bear Bryant of Alabama. I also tutored under coach Hank Stram of the Chiefs. Coach Stram taught me his system for analyzing the comparative strength of teams, and I have been making money with that information for 35 years. Early last year I decided to let the computer do some of the heavy lifting. I commissioned a Silicon Valley learning lab to do a five-year study of 9,160 College and NFL football games against the spread - i.e., it was my basic program computerized to get a fix on which factors counted the most. The aim was to create a program that could predict the point spread between any two teams. To cut to the chase, the project took quite a few months.

But the RESULTS were jaw dropping!

The study revealed what were the key elements to beating the spread. My algorithm – refined after 100,000 passes – and applied to the 2008 football season - **identified:**

- **A few teams graded out as 100% to cover.**
- **A higher number of teams rated 90% verses the spread.**
- **An even higher number of teams could be counted on to cover 75%.**

Fantastic – now how do we prove it?

Simple: "test" this method under "game day" conditions. That's what I did. Starting with the first Thursday & Friday of the college season last August, using all my new tools. **I went 4 and 1 against the spread. In the 4 winning games, I gave up an average of 9.5 points a game and WON THEM BY AN AVERAGE OF 26 POINTS PER GAME.**

This system was pinpointing teams that were **beating the spread by almost 17 points per game.** In 40 years of handicapping, I had never seen any system or method that accurate or that powerful.

And, the winning NEVER stopped!

Now, I could write pages and pages of copy praising this system. But I'd rather just let the results speak for themselves. Once you see how strong these plays were, I can't imagine that you wouldn't want to join my **Personal Best Service** for this 2009 season.

Kelso Sturgeon's Personal Best 2008 Football Record
200 UNIT SELECTIONS

DATE	UNITS	TEAM	LINE	TEAM	SCORE	W/L	NOTES
1/1	200	Georgia	(-8)	Michigan St.	24-12	W	Bowl Game of Yr.
12/14	200	Patriots	(-7)	Raiders	49-26	W	NFL Blowout of Yr.
11/30	200	Ravens	(-7)	Bengals	34-3	W	NFL Power Play
11/22	200	UNLV	(-10)	San Diego St..	21-42	L	Conf. Blowout Yr.
10/19	200	Titans	(-8 ½)	Chiefs	34-10	W	NFL Game of Year
10/11	200	Air Force	(-10½)	San Diego St.	35-10	W	College GOY

- **1,975 Units UP for the 2008 NFL/College Combined Seasons**
- **5-1 in 200 Unit Games**
- **14-6-1 in 100 & 200 Units Games**
- **50-14-3 in 50 Unit, 100 Unit, and 200 Unit Games**
- **100% (6-0) in Big Play Parlays**
- **The total win figure of $218,475** based on the 50/100/200 unit plays, includes parlays that paid off at 13-5 & parlays that turned into 2 individual bets because of a tie in one end of he parlay.

See the complete record online: **www.KelsoSportsHandicapping.com**

Beginners luck or have we struck gold?

Last year was the first exercise in a continuing search for more winners and bigger profits. Since the Super Bowl, I have supervised my Palo Alto group in breaking down theresults, looking to maintain our win percentages and to make **SURE** we do as well in 2009!

And the only service that has this method and will offer you **ALL** the **Big Games of 2009** is my **Personal Best Service**. As a member, you'll receive all the same plays that won **$218,475** last year, starting with my **Preseason Game of the Year,** this package also includes my **September College & NFL Games of the Month** and...

- **BEST College Plays Weekly**
- **BEST NFL Plays Weekly**
- **ALL 50 Unit Games**
- **ALL 100 Unit Games**
- **ALL 200 Unit Lock Plays**
- **ALL Monday/Thursday Selections**

I could easily charge $100 or even $200 a game or up to $7,000 a year for such a successful service, but I have always been the best friend of the regular player. So, the season cost of my **Personal Best Service** remains at $899... But, I'm giving you a huge break of $400 and money making bonuses too, if you sign up now before the season beings.

Early Bird Special just $499 and get...

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